FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1475409-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 35
Page 6 ~ Duplicate;
Page 9 ~ Duplicate;
Page 19 ~ Duplicate;
Page 20 ~ Duplicate;
Page 21 ~ Duplicate;
Page 22 ~ Duplicate;
Page 53 ~ b3; b6; b7C; b7E;
Page 65 ~ Duplicate;
Page 67 ~ b7D;
Page 74 ~ Duplicate;
Page 75 ~ Duplicate;
Page 92 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;
Page 96 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;
Page 97 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;
Page 100 ~ Duplicate;
Page 101 ~ Duplicate;
Page 102 ~ Duplicate;
Page 103 ~ Duplicate;
Page 104 ~ Duplicate;
Page 105 ~ Duplicate;
Page 106 ~ Duplicate;
Page 107 ~ Duplicate;
Page 108 ~ Duplicate;
Page 109 ~ Duplicate;
Page 110 ~ Duplicate;
Page 111 ~ Duplicate;
Page 124 ~ Duplicate;
Page 125 ~ Duplicate;
Page 126 ~ Duplicate;
Page 127 ~ Duplicate;
Page 128 ~ Duplicate;
Page 129 ~ Duplicate;
Page 130 ~ Duplicate;
Page 131 ~ Duplicate;
Page 137 ~ Duplicate;

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X For this Page X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DEC 2 0 1961

TELETYPE

URGENT 12-20-61 6-59 PM DA

TO SAC NEW YORK /7/

FROM DIRECTOR 1P [redacted]

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR. [redacted] BUREAU HAS TODAY INSTRUCTED

LEGAT, MEXICO, [redacted]

[redacted] WE WILL CONTINUE

TO HANDLE SPECIFIC REQUESTS AND WFO SHOULD CONTINUE EFFORTS TO SECURE VICTIM-S PHOTOGRAPH AND LA SHOULD SECURE CREDIT CARD DATA. SUTEL NYO AND BUREAU PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS AND PROMPTLY FURNISHED BUREAU DATA IN MEMORANDUM FORM FOR DISSEMINATION BY LEGAT. WFO AND LOS ANGELES ADVISED.

END & ACK PLS

WA R 7 ~~US~~ NY JAA

b3
b7D
b7E

11/22/61

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE URGENT

1 - Orig
1 - Yellow
1 - Liaison
1 - Foarde

b3
b7E

TO SAC NEW YORK

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

EX-113 REC-34

LUIS MELCHOR VIDAL, [redacted] LEGAT MEXICO ADVISES SEVERAL MEXICAN AGENCIES INVESTIGATING MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE SUBJECT WHO ARRIVED MEXICO CITY NOVEMBER ELEVEN LAST FROM NEW YORK ON EASTERN AIRLINES FLIGHT THREE ZERO ONE AND STAYED AT HOTEL CONTINENTAL HILTON UNTIL DISAPPEARANCE NOVEMBER THIRTEEN. EMBASSY PROTECTION SECTION HAS CONTACTED VIDAL'S WIFE TERESA M. VIDAL, [redacted] AND FATHER AND HAVE RECEIVED NO INFORMATION TO CLARIFY DISAPPEARANCE. BLOODSTAINED CLOTHING IDENTIFIED AS VIDAL'S LOCATED AND RUMORS CIRCULATING THAT HE HAD BEEN SPECULATING IN CUBAN PESOS AND HAD BEEN IN FIGHT WITH CASTROITE CUBANS IN NEW YORK. DESCRIBED AS WMA, THREE FOUR YEARS, FIVE FEET ONE ONE, TWO TWO ZERO POUNDS, HEAVY BUILD, DARK BALDING HAIR, DARK EYES. LEGAT REQUESTED NEW YORK EXPEDITE INTERVIEW VIDAL'S WIFE AND OTHER LOGICAL SOURCES FOR INFORMATION RE ACTIVITIES AND POSSIBLE LEADS. BUFILES INDICATE SUBJECT POSSIBLY IDENTICAL WITH SON OF LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, [redacted] [redacted] SON DESCRIBED AS LOUIS H. VIDAL, JR., BORN AUGUST TWENTY-NINE, ONE NINE TWO NINE AT NEW YORK CITY. SUTEL RESULTS ATTENTION LIAISON SECTION.

b6
b7C

b3
b7E

HOOVER (5)

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

NOV 22 1961

TELETYPE

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (detached)

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

57 DEC 4 1961

TELETYPE TO SAC, NEW YORK
RE: LUIS MELCHOR VIDAL

NOTE:

b3
b7E

Legat, Mexico, requested cable reply regarding identification record and above investigation by New York. [redacted] indicates subject of above New York file described as an old salesman who is inclined to exaggerate. He was investigated in 1956 and 1957 [redacted] after he claimed to have high U.S. Government connections and valuable information in the Galindez case. Investigation did not support his claims and no prosecution authorized. Subject in captioned matter is probably the son of this individual. Handled as [redacted] matter.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 22 1961
TELETYPE

4-3 (Rev. 6-2-61)

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

DECODED COPY

☐ **Airgram** ☒ **Cablegram**

URGENT 11-21-61

TO DIRECTOR

FROM LEGAT, MEXICO CITY NO. 821

LUIS MELCHOR VIDAL [redacted] SEVERAL MEXICAN AGENCIES INVESTIGATING MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE SUBJECT WHO ARRIVED MEXICO CITY NOVEMBER 11 LAST FROM NEW YORK ON EASTERN AIRLINES FLIGHT 301 AND STAYED AT HOTEL CONTINENTAL HILTON UNTIL DISAPPEARANCE NOVEMBER 13. EMBASSY PROTECTION SECTION HAS CONTACTED VIDAL'S WIFE TERESA M. VIDAL, [redacted] AND FATHER AND HAVE RECEIVED NO INFORMATION TO CLARIFY DISAPPEARANCE. BLOODSTAINED CLOTHING IDENTIFIED AS VIDAL'S LOCATED AND RUMORS CIRCULATING THAT HE HAD BEEN SPECULATING IN CUBAN PESOS AND HAD BEEN IN FIGHT WITH CASTROITE CUBANS IN NEW YORK. DESCRIBED AS WMA, 34 YEARS, 5 FEET 11, 220 POUNDS, HEAVY BUILD, DARK BALDING HAIR, DARK EYES. REQUEST BUREAU CABLE IDENTIFICATION RECORD AND NEW YORK EXPEDITE INTERVIEW VIDAL'S WIFE AND OTHER LOGICAL SOURCES FOR INFORMATION RE ACTIVITIES AND POSSIBLE LEADS.

b3
b7E
b6
b7C

JOHN F. DESMOND

RECEIVED: 6:19 PM MN

[redacted]

b3
b7E

CC-Mr. Trotter
3RD CC-MR. L'ALLIER

OCT - 24
REC- 34
NOV 24 1961
EX-115
5 FOARDE

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

4-22 (Rev. 1-22-60)

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Branch

11/22, 19[illegible]

- [ ] Name Searching Unit - Room 6527
- [ ] Service Unit - Room 6524
- [ ] Forward to File Review
- [x] Attention Aikshouse
- [x] Return to Forde 849RB
  Supervisor Room Ext.

Type of References Requested:
- [ ] Regular Request (Analytical Search)
- [x] All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
- [ ] Subversive References Only
- [ ] Nonsubversive References Only
- [ ] Main _____ References Only

Type of Search Requested:
- [ ] Restricted to Locality of _____
- [ ] Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
- [ ] Buildup
- [ ] Variations

Luis Melchor Vidal

Subject
Birthdate & Place
Address

Localities Mexico

R# Date 11/22 Searcher Initials JB

Prod.

	FILE NUMBER	SERIAL
	Mr	
	Luis M. Vidal	
PI	[redacted]	b3 b7E
PI	100-423107-7	
	Luis Vidal	
	4 main & 50 secs, [illegible]	
	L.M.	
NI	40-35781-2	
	Melchor Vidal	
	Mr	
	Luis Melchor	
NI	[redacted]	

Mr. Tolson

Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 23 1961
TELETYPE

URGENT 11-23-61 5-57 AM TDM

TO DIRECTOR -3- FBI ATTN.. LIASON SECTION

FROM SAC NEW YORK

LUIS MELCHOR VIDAL, [redacted] REBUTEL DATED ELEVEN TWENTY TWO SIXTY ONE, RE MEXICO CITY TELEPHONE CALL ELEVEN TWENTY TWO SIXTY ONE AND RE NY PHONE CALL TO BUREAU THIS DATE. MRS LUIS VIDAL, WIFE OF SUBJECT AND LUIS VIDAL SR. FATHER OF SUBJECT, BOTH INTERVIEWED AT [redacted] AS SAS ENTERED APARTMENT, MRS. VIDAL TELEPHONICALLY TALKING WITH MEXICO CITY, AT WHICH TIME SHE WAS ADVISED THAT A BODY WAS FOUND TWO MILES DISTANT FROM SPOT WHERE CLOTHES WERE DISCOVERED WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED BY HER AS BEING THOSE OF HER HUSBAND.

b3
b7E
b6
b7C

[redacted] SUBJECT-S WIFE DEPARTING ALONE NYC VIA EASTERN AIRLINES FLIGHT THREE ZERO ONE INSTANT, DIRECT TO MEXICO CITY. MRS. VIDAL ADVISED THAT HUSBAND LEFT NEW YORK CITY VIA EASTERN AIR LINES FLIGHT THREE ZERO ONE ON ELEVEN ~~ELEVEN SIXTY ONE~~, FOR MEXICO CITY, NEXICO, WITH RESERVATIONS THERE AT EL PRADO HOTEL. SUBJECT TRAVELED TO MEXICO CITY ON BUSINESS TRIP IN CONNECTION WITH SOUTHWESTERN SUGAR AND MOLASSES CO., NYC. SUBJECT TRAVELED

b3
b6
b7C
b7E

END PAGE ONE

REC-71 [redacted]

NOV 27 1961

1:20PM 11/23/61

66 DEC 5 1961

ON ORDERS FROM MR. JOSEPH KAPLAN, OF ABOVE COMPANY, WHO WAS ENROUTE TO MEXICO CITY FOR APPOINTMENT WITH SUBJECT, AT CONTINENTAL HILTON HOTEL. KAPLAN HOWEVER TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED SUBJECT FROM SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO KEEP APPOINTMENT IN MEXICO CITY AND WAS ENROUTE TO PERU ON BUSINESS. SUBJECT WAS TO MEET WITH AARON SAENZ, WHO HAS OFFICES IN SAENZ BLDG.. FOURTEENTH FLOOR, MEXICO CITY, MEXICO. MRS VIDAL ADVISED THAT TELEGRAM WAS SENT TO HER ADVISING THAT SUBJECT WAS TO GO TO SUGAR MILLS ON ELEVEN FIFTEEN SIXTY ONE AND COULD BE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO NYC ON WEEK END. SHE STATED THAT SUBJECT USUALLY ENDED TELEGRAMS WITH WORD, LOVE., HOWEVER, THIS TELEGRAM WAS ENDED WITH WORD, "CARINOSAMENTE," WHICH SHE THOUGHT STRANGE. MRS. VIDAL STATED THAT SUBJECT STAYED AT CONTINENTAL HILTON HOTEL ALTHO HE HAD RESERVATIONS AT EL PRADO. SHE DID NOT KNOW REASON FOR CHANGE. SHE STATED THAT A PERSON [redacted] ADVISED HER ON SATURDAY ELEVEN EIGHTEEN SIXTY ONE THAT HUSBAND MISSING. ON NOV. TWENTY TWO [redacted] WHO ACCORDING TO MRS. VIDAL, [redacted] ADVISED

b6
b7C
b7D

END PAGE TWO

HER OF FINDING CLOTHING ON STAURDAY AND BODY FOUND THIS DATE. [redacted] b7D

[redacted]

[redacted] LUIS VIDAL SR. ADVISED THAT TELEGRAM DATED ELEVEN TWENTY TWO LAST SENT BY AARON SAENZ, TO LUIS VIDAL SR., STATED THAT HE, SAENZ HAD NOT MET WITH SUBJECT AS PLANNED, AND HAD LEARNED FROM PRESS REPORTS THAT POLICE WERE INVESTIGATING SUBJECTS DISAPPEARANCE. MRS. VIDAL COULD FURNISH NO INFORMATION CONCERNING SUBJECTS DISAPPEARNCE AND OR POSSIBLE INJURY. SHE AND SUBJECTS FATHER, LUIS SR. BOTH DENIED ANY INVOLVMENT IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES ON PART OF SUBJECT.

[redacted]

[redacted] SHE STATED THAT SUBJECT TRAVELED ALONE TO MEXICO CITY. MRS. VIDAL UNABLE TO ADVISE YEAR OF SUBJECT-S BIRTH, BUT STATED HE WAS BORN ON AUGUST TWENTY NINTH. LUIS VIDAL SR. FREQUENTLY INCOHERENT. MRS. VIDAL, MOTHER OF SUBJECT, PRESENTLY IN ST CLAIRE-S HOSPITAL, NYC, COMPLETELY PARALYZED.

END PAGE THREE

SUBJECTS WIFE STATED THAT SUBJECT WAS ARRESTED DUE TO INVOLVEMENT IN EXCHANGE OF CUBAN PESOS IN NYC APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR AND A HALF AGO, WHILE LIVING AT PRESENT NY ADDRESS. SHE DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF OTHER ARRESTS OF SUBJECT. SUBJECTS FATHER IS SUBJECT OF MATTER CAPTIONED "LOUIS MELCHOIOR VIDAL, [redacted] WHICH INVESTIGATION WAS BASED ON RECEIPT OF INFORMATION INDICATING HE HAD FURNISHED ADVICE AND DATA TO DOMINICAN OFFICIALS CONCERNING MISCELLANEOUS POLITICAL MATTERS. NYO WILL CONTACT SOURCES AND NYCPD FOR ANY RECORD OF SUBJECT. SUGGEST LEGAT MEXICO CITY BE NOTIFIED OF ABOVE.

b3
b7E

END

NY R NR 03 A WA JHA

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

TO : W. C. Sullivan

DATE: November 23, 1961

FROM : S. B. Donahoe

SUBJECT: Luis Melchor Vidal [redacted]

b3
b7E

At 2:30 a.m., 11-23-61 SA Roderick Prechtl of the New York Office telephonically advised that New York was sending Bureau a teletype in captioned matter and, in addition, he furnished the following information:

At 8:30 p.m. 11-22-61 John Desmond, Legat Mexico, telephonically advised New York Office that Vidal had just been found dead within the hour [redacted]

b3
b7D
b7E

According to Desmond, the wife had indicated that she knew that her husband was dead prior to the police finding the body and police were extremely desirous of having the wife interviewed concerning the telephone call and any information she might have relative to Vidal's disappearance and death.

Mr. Desmond stated that if any information were developed he wished it to be telephonically furnished to him at his home phone number, 20-65-47, Lomas Mexico, D. F.

New York has not furnished results of above interview to Legat Mexico.

ACTION:

SA John J. Foarde who is handling this matter was telephonically advised of the above at 7:30 a.m., 11-23-61. He stated that he would report to the office to give this matter appropriate attention. [redacted]

ACM:rpc
(5)

1 - Sullivan
1 - L'Allier
1 - Foarde
1 - Meier
1 - Donahoe

11/23/61 - 1:20 PM
Brief resume of NY tel
furnished Desmond telephonically
Prepared by J.P. Sizoo

REC- [redacted]

20 NOV 27 1961

EX-113

5

57 DEC 4 1961

1-Orig
1-Yellow
1-Liaison
CODE 1-Donahoe 11-24-61
1-Foarde

CABLEGRAM URGENT

Luis Melchor Vidal

TO LEGAL ATTACHE MEXICO CITY

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] REURCABS NOVEMBER TWENTY ONE AND TWENTY TWO LAST AND BUREAU CALL NOVEMBER TWENTY THREE LAST. BUFILES CONTAIN NO DEROGATORY DATA IDENTIFIABLE WITH SUBJECT. FOR INFORMATION, FATHER, LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, SR., SUBJECT OF [redacted] CASE AFTER INFORMATION RECEIVED IN ONE NINE FIVE SIX THAT HE WAS FURNISHING ADVICE AND INFORMATION TO DOMINICAN OFFICIALS IN U.S. RE MISCELLANEOUS POLITICAL MATTERS. IN ONE NINE FIVE SEVEN INTERVIEW, VIDAL SR., STATED HE WAS PERSONAL FRIEND AND GREAT ADMIRER OF RAFAEL TRUJILLO AND HAD NUMEROUS IMPORTANT BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS WITH DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN THE CARIBBEAN OVER THREE ZERO YEARS. DENIED EVER BECOMING DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS. ADMITTED HE WAS DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER OF DOMINICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN NEW YORK CITY AND IN FEBRUARY, LAST WAS STILL SO [redacted] LISTED WITH THIS ORGANIZATION, WHICH IS A REGIST[redacted] THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. NO PROSECUTION RESULTED FROM ONE NINE [redacted]

b3
b7E

MCT REC-71

SK 113

19 NOV 27 1961

1 - SAC, New York City (By Regular Mail)
(Attn: jad)
1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (detached)

See note on yellow page 2

VIA CABLEGRAM
NOV 25 1961
3:40 am TTA

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

57 DEC 4 1961

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

64 NOV 29 1961

CABLE LEGAT MEXICO
RE: LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR. [redacted] b3 b7E

FIVE SEVEN INVESTIGATION AND ASSOCIATES DESCRIBED VIDAL, SR. AS OLD SALESMAN INCLINED TO EXAGGERATE CONNECTIONS WITH HIGH POLITICAL OFFICIALS. INVESTIGATION CONTINUING IN NEW YORK CITY.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Body of subject, American citizen, found near Mexico City 11-22-61, after mysterious disappearance 11-13-61, under circumstances indicating foul play. Summary of New York interview with wife furnished Legat at his request 11-23-61, along with information that wife was then en route Mexico City by air. Several Mexican agencies investigating [redacted] b7D requested data on subject. Also, that Mexican authorities believe "political murder" indicated and subject possibly worked for Fidel Castro in U.S. No information in Bufiles supporting this, but pro-Trujillo activity of father as described above is indicated. This cable is being sent via leased line at no cost to the Bureau.

929

1-Original
1-Yellow
1-Liaison
1-Mr. Foarde

PLAIN TEXT 12-1-61

TELETYPE URGENT

TO SACs ALBANY [redacted]
NEW YORK [redacted]

b3
b7E

REC-40 EX-115

FROM DIRECTOR FBI [redacted] -5

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] REBUTEL TO NY AND AL NOVEMBER TWENTY NINE LAST AND NY TEL TO WFO NOVEMBER THIRTY LAST. MEXICO CITY POLICE CONSIDER JOEL D. KAPLAN PRIME SUSPECT BELIEVE HE MAY HAVE MET VICTIM AT AIRPORT. THEY ADVISE KAPLAN IDENTIFIED BY SEVERAL WITNESSES AS PERSON PAYING VICTIM'S BILL AND REMOVING LUGGAGE FROM HOTEL AFTER CALL RECEIVED IN MIDDLE OF NIGHT BY INDIVIDUAL CLAIMING TO BE VICTIM AND STATING HE WAS LEAVING AND SENDING PERSON TO PAY AND PICK UP LUGGAGE. POLICE BELIEVE VICTIM IN ASSASSIN'S CUSTODY FROM NOVEMBER TWELVE UNTIL SIXTEENTH OR SEVENTEENTH OF NOVEMBER LAST WHEN MURDER WAS COMMITTED; THAT HE WAS SERIOUSLY BEATEN ABOUT FACE AND HEAD PRIOR TO MURDER AND EFFORTS POSSIBLY MADE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION OR REVENGE. POLICE HAVE RELEASED FOREGOING TO PRESS AND HAVE PUBLISHED OLD PHOTOGRAPH OF KAPLAN AS PRINCIPAL SUSPECT. SOME POLICE SUGGESTED INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFIC AS MURDER BASIS BUT U. S. NARCOTIC REPRESENTATIVE IN MEXICO ADVISES NO BASIS FOR THEORY EXISTS. GIVE PREFERRED ATTENTION TO LEADS ON WFO (BY SPECIAL MESSENGER) [redacted]

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

njs (6)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DEC 1 1961
TELETYPE

MAIL ROOM [ ] TELETYPE UNIT [✓]

64 DEC 6 1961

FBI - 10
REC'D - 20

DEC 1 4 53 P

7-59 PM

TO SAC: ALBANY [redacted]
NEW YORK [redacted]
LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted]
[redacted]

b3
b7E

KAPLAN AND TRAVELS DURING NOVEMBER LAST. ALL OFFICES SUTEL PERTINENT RESULTS, ATTENTION LIAISON SECTION. [redacted]

[redacted] WFO ADVISED SEPARATELY.

NOTE:

We are handling all reasonable leads [redacted] since captioned American citizen found murdered near Mexico City 11-22-61. Handled as [redacted] Matter.

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

U.S. Department of Justice
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DEC 1 1961
7:59 PM
TELETYPE
MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

4-3 (Rev. 6-2-61)

DECODED COPY

☐ Airgram ☒ Cablegram

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

URGENT 11-30-61

TO DIRECTOR

FROM LEGAT, MEXICO CITY NO. 839

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] REBUCAB NOVEMBER 29 LAST. MEXICO CITY POLICE ADVISE THEY CONSIDER JOEL D. KAPLAN THE PRIME SUSPECT VIDAL MURDER BELIEVING THAT KAPLAN MAY HAVE MET VIDAL AT AIRPORT AND THAT HE HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED BY SEVERAL WITNESSES AS PERSON WHO PAID VIDAL'S HOTEL BILL AND REMOVED HIS LUGGAGE FROM HOTEL CONTINENTAL HILTON AFTER VIDAL OR PERSON IMPERSONATING HIM TELEPHONED HOTEL IN MIDDLE OF NIGHT TO STATE WAS LEAVING AND WOULD SEND PERSON TO PAY BILL AND REMOVE LUGGAGE. THEY BELIEVE VIDAL WAS IN CUSTODY ASSASSINS FROM NOVEMBER 12 UNTIL MURDERED ABOUT NOVEMBER 16 OR 17; THAT HE HAD BEEN SEVERELY BEATEN ABOUT FACE AND HEAD PRIOR TO BEING SHOT; AND POSSIBLY EFFORTS WERE MADE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION OR REVENGE DURING THAT TIME. POLICE HAVE RELEASED FOREGOING TO NEWSPAPERS AND HAVE PUBLISHED OLD PHOTOGRAPH OF KAPLAN AS PRINCIPAL SUSPECT. [redacted] VARIOUS POLICE AGENCIES HAVE SUGGESTED INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFIC AS BASIS FOR MURDER, BUT UNITED STATE NARCOTICS BUREAU REPRESENTATIVE BEN WHITE STATES NO BASIS EXISTS FOR ASSUMPTION.

b3
b7E

b3
b7D
b7E

JOHN F. DESMOND [redacted]

RECEIVED: EX-115 REC- 46 12 DEC 4 1961 10:00 PM MJC

3RD CC-MR. L'ALLIER

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

1-Original
1-Yellow
1-Liaison
1-Foarde

November 29, 1961

CODE

CABLEGRAM

URGENT

TO LEGAL ATTACHE, MEXICO CITY

FROM DIRECTOR, FBI

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] INFORMATION DEVELOPED TO DATE BY NEW YORK OFFICE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS: NEW YORK POINTS OUT WIDOW, DURING INTERVIEW NOVEMBER TWENTY-THREE, LAST, TOLD VIDAL, SENIOR, TO KEEP QUIET AND LET HER HANDLE INTERVIEW. LATTER SPOKE IN RAMBLING MANNER AND PARTIALLY INCOHERENT. ANONYMOUS MALE ADVISED [redacted]

b3
b7E

b3
b7D
b7E

[redacted]

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (detached)

NOTE: We are handling all reasonable leads [redacted] in murder case involving captioned American citizen round shot to death near Mexico City 11/22/61. Handle as [redacted] matter. Cable sent over leased line at no cost to Bureau.

JJR:nph
(5)

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☑

Code PM

NOV 30 1961
12:40 am

TO LEGAT, MEXICO CITY

RE: LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted]

b3
b7D
b7E

[redacted]

[redacted] SOURCE

SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY KAPLAN WAS MURDERER, [redacted]

[redacted] NEW YORK

TO DATE HAS NOT IDENTIFIED ANONYMOUS MALE WHO FURNISHED ABOVE INFORMATION. VIDAL, SENIOR ADVISED JOSE SANTOS, [redacted]

[redacted] HAD IDEA FOR NEW PROCESS TO USE THIRD-CLASS MOLASSES, AND VIDAL SENIOR HELPED PERFECT IDEA. NEW COMPANY LATER FORMED, CONSISTING OF SANTOS, VIDAL, JR., AND JOE KAPLAN, WHO HAS EXTENSIVE INTERESTS IN MOLASSES FIELD. MEXICO CITY TRIP BASED ON INQUIRY RECEIVED FROM SAENZ SUGAR PEOPLE REGARDING FORMULA, AND BOTH KAPLAN AND SUBJECT WERE TO GO. KAPLAN FOUND HE HAD TO GO TO LIMA, PERU, AND TOLD SUBJECT HE WOULD MEET HIM IN MEXICO CITY. VIDAL, SENIOR, SAID HE WARNED SUBJECT AGAINST TRAVELING TO MEXICO CITY BEFORE HE KNEW DATE KAPLAN TO MEET HIM. VIDAL, SENIOR, STATED SUBJECT HAD

TO LEGAT, MEXICO CITY

RE: LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] b3 b7E

ARGUMENT ON STREET WITH THREE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD LEFT OFFICE OF VIDAL, SENIOR, AFTER BEING REFUSED ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR SHIPMENT TO CARIBBEAN AREA. VIDAL, SENIOR, SAID THESE MEN WERE STRANGERS AND BELIEVED TWO OF THEM WERE CUBAN. HE AFFIRMED THAT JOE VALERIANA WITNESSED ARGUMENT. VIDAL, SENIOR, COULD SUPPLY NO ADDITIONAL DETAILS. LEADS OUTSTANDING TO INVERVIEW VALERIANA WHILE ON VACATION IN UTICA, NEW YORK. ANOTHER SOURCE ADVISED JOEL M. KAPLAN IS ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT OF SOUTHWESTERN SUGAR AND MOLASSES COMPANY, AND HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH KAPLAN INTERESTS THROUGHOUT BUSINESS CAREER. PRESIDENT IS JACOB M. KAPLAN, DESCRIBED AS WELL-KNOWN BUSINESSMAN AND FINANCIER. RAUL CARRASQUELLO AND WIFE ADVISED RAUL IS BROTHER OF TERESA VIDAL. DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF PURPOSE OF MEXICAN TRIP BY SUBJECT, BUT POINTED OUT BUSINESS ENTERPRISE INVOLVING NEW SUGAR FORMULA IN WHICH SUBJECT ASSOCIATED WITH JOSEPH KAPLAN AND JOSE SANTOS. SUBJECT WAS PRESIDENT OF THIS FIRM, CALLED AMERICAN SUCROSE COMPANY. THEY SAID BOTH KAPLAN AND SANTOS WERE TO ACCOMPANY SUBJECT, BUT COULD NOT STATE

TO LEGAT, MEXICO CITY

RE: LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] b3 b7E

WHETHER SANTOS MADE TRIP. SANTOS DESCRIBED AS SPANIARD WHO RESIDED TEN YEARS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AND MARRIED TO DOMINICAN. CARRASQUELLO STATED SANTOS DISAPPOINTED SUBJECT NAMED PRESIDENT OF FIRM INSTEAD OF SANTOS. THEY DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN MURDER, BUT SUGGESTED CRIME CONNECTED IN SOMEWAY WITH BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS CONCERNING FORMULA. NEW YORK PLANS INTERVIEW WITH SANTOS AND WIFE. GUSTAVO VIDAL STATED HE IS NOT RELATED TO SUBJECT. AS EMPLOYEE OF AMERICAN CAN COMPANY, HE ARRIVED MEXICO CITY, NOVEMBER SIX, LAST, AND DEPARTED NOVEMBER TWELVE, LAST, VIA AIR FRANCE. CLAIMED ONLY KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT FROM NEWSPAPERS. ATTORNEY FOR TERESA VIDAL CONTACTED NEW YORK, NOVEMBER TWENTY-EIGHT, LAST, SEEKING INFORMATION AND OFFERING COOPERATION. OFFER TACTFULLY DECLINED. FURNISH BUREAU AVAILABLE PERTINENT DETAILS TO DATE REGARDING MEXICAN INVESTIGATION FOR GUIDANCE OF NEW YORK OFFICE IN HANDLING CURRENT LEADS AND ANY ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION NECESSARY.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 30 1961

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Walters
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

URGENT 11-30-61 12-16 PM PC

TO DIRECTOR, FBI /7//ATT .. LIAISON SECTION / AND SAC, ~~ALBANY AND SAC,~~
WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

FROM SAC, NEW YORK [redacted] 1P

b3
b7E

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.., [redacted] RENYTEL TO BUREAU AND SAC, ALBANY NOVEMBER TWENTY -SEVEN, NINETEEN SIXTY- ONE AND BUTEL TO SACS, NEW YORK AND ALBANY NOVEMBER TWENTY-NINE, NINETEEN SIXTY-ONE. FOR INFORMATION OF WFO, BUREAU HAS INSTRUCTED THAT PHOTOGRAPH BE OBTAINED OF JOEL, AKA JOSEPH D., KAPLAN, AS WELL AS OTHER BACKGROUND, INCLUDING TRAVELS DURING NOVEMBER . JOEL KAPLAN REPORTEDLY SON OR NEPHEW OF ABRAHAM I. KAPLAN. [redacted] HAS DESCRIBED JOEL KAPLAN AS BEING BORN IN THE U. S. IN NINETEEN TWENTY-SEVEN. WFO REVIEW PASSPORT FILES, U. S. STATE DEPARTMENT, AND OBTAIN MOST RECENT PHOTO, FORWARDING COPIES TO BUREAU AND NYO, TOGETHER WITH BACKGROUND, INCLUDING PERMANENT RESIDENCE. RECORDS OF [redacted] INDICATED CORPORATION CARD FILED ON JANUARY TEN, NINETEEN SIXTY-.ONE FOR THE AMERICAN SUCROSE COMPANY. NO RECORD FOR THIS COMPANY LOCATED COUNTY CLERK-S OFFICE, NEW YORK COUNTY. ALBANY REQUESTED TO CONTACT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE CONCERNING THIS COMPANY. SUTEL RESULTS. [redacted]

b7D

b3
b7E

END

REC-127

NE DEC 4 1961

TWO COPIES WFO

NY R 7 WA JA

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DEC - 1 1961

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Dalbeck
Mr. Evans
Mr. Mason
Mr. Mintz
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

URGENT 12-1-61 12-05 PM PC

TO DIRECTOR, FBI /5/ /ATT.. LIAISON SECTION /AND SAC, ALBANY

FROM SAC, NEW YORK

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.., [redacted] RE WFO TEL NOVEMBER THIRTY, NINETEEN SIXTY-ONE. ALBANY DISREGARD LEAD TO CHECK RECORDS SECRETARY OF STATE RE SOUTHWESTERN SUGAR END MOLASSES COMPANY.

b3
b7E

END

~~WA R 5 NY JLW~~

NY R 5 WA DA

[redacted]

REC-127

12 DEC 4 1961

DEC 26

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 30 1961
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

URGENT 11-30-61 4-23 PM CMC

TO DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC, NEW YORK [redacted]

NEW YORK VIA WASHINGTON

FROM SAC, ALBANY [redacted]

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] RE NEW YORK TEL DATED NOVEMBER THIRTY SIXTYONE. RECORDS SECRETARY OF STATE, ALBANY, NY, CHECKED THIS DATE, REFLECT AMERICAN SUCROSE COMPANY FILED A CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON JANUARY TEN SIXTYONE. PURPOSE WHICH CORPORATION WAS ORGANIZED WAS FIRST TO ENGAGE IN THE MANUFACTURING, PROCESSING AND PRODUCTION OF FOODSTUFFS, BIOCHEMICALS, ALLIED NUTRIENTS MADE FROM SUGARS OF ALL KIND, SECOND TO ENGAGE IN THE RESEARCH TO DEVELOP NEW METHODS FOR OBTAINING OR TREATING SUCH FOODSTUFFS AND TO COORDINATE AND COOPERATE WITH OTHERS IN OBTAINING THE OBJECTS SET FORTH IN ONE AND TWO, AND TO SELL, ASSIGN, LICENSE AND SUBLICENSE OTHERS IN UTILIZATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH OF THE CORPORATION AND PRODUCTS THEREOF, WHETHER FOR IMPORT OR EXPORT, FOURTH ACQUIRE REAL ESTATE, SELL, ECT. RECORDS FURTHER [redacted] REFLECT THAT SUBSCRIBERS AND DIRECTORS OF CORPORATION WERE [redacted] JOF D. KAPLAN, TWO ONE FIVE EAST SEVENTY NINTH STREET, NEW YORK CITY, LOUIS M. VIDAL, JR., FOUR SIX FIVE WEST END AVENUE,

END PAGE ONE

b3
b7E

EX-108 REC-62

62 DEC 8 1961

10 DEC 4 1961

RELAYED TO

NEW YORK TWENTY FOUR , JOSEPH F. PADLON , [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted], ATTORNEY HANDLING INCORPORATION WAS

JOSEPH F. PADLON, [redacted] IF

COMPLETE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION DESIRED, CAN BE OBTAINED

FROM SECRETARY OF STATE. REBUTEL NOVEMBER TWENTYNINE LAST.

NYS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES, ALBANY, NY ADVISES RECORDS

RE DRIVERS LICENSES ARE NOT FILED NUMERICALLY, THEREFORE, WOULD

BE UNABLE TO DETERMINE TO WHOM NY DRIVERS LICENSE ONE TWO TWO

ZERO FOUR TWO THREE ISSUED. SEARCH OF RECORDS NEGATIVELY

CONDUCTED RE SUBJECT AND JOEL, AKA JOSEPH D. KAPLAN. RECORDS

FURTHER INDICATE ABOVE LICENSE NUMBER ISSUED AS A CHAUFFEUR-S

LICENSE IN NINETEEN FIFTYNINE AND NINETEEN SIXTYONE AND ALSO AS

OPERATOR-S LICENSE IN NINETEEN FIFTYEIGHT ALL WERE ISSUED OUT

OF THE NEW YORK DISTRICT OFFICE. NEW YORK ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY

HOLDER OF ABOVE LICENSE AND SUTEL BUREAU.

END AND ACK PLS

4-30 PM OK FBI WA JDS --RELAY NY--

TU DISC P

Co[illegible]

FD-36 (Rev. 12-13-56)

FBI

Date: 11-30-61

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
(Type in plain text or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI, AND SACS, ALBANY AND NEW YORK

FROM: SAC, WASHINGTON FIELD [redacted]

b3
b7E

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., FPC. RENYTEL NOVEMBER THIRTY, NINETEEN SIXTYONE. FILES, PASSPORT OFFICE, USDS, CONTAIN ONLY RENEWAL APPLICATION FILED AUGUST NINETEEN, NINETEEN SIXTY, AT AMERICAN EMBASSY, LIMA, PERU, BY JOEL DAVID KAPLAN, BORN OCTOBER SEVENTEEN, NINETEEN TWENTYSIX, NEW YORK, NEW YORK, FOR PASSPORT NUMBER ONE ONE SIX SIX FOUR NINE EIGHT ISSUED KAPLAN AUGUST EIGHT, NINETEEN FIFTYEIGHT, AT WDC. LEGAL RESIDENCE GIVEN AS TWO ONE FIVE EAST SEVENTYNINTH STREET, NYC, FOREIGN ADDRESS AS HOTEL BOLIVAR, LIMA, PERU, EMPLOYMENT AS REPRESENTATIVE FOR SOUTHWESTERN SUGAR AND MOLASSES COMPANY, CITY AND STATE NOT GIVEN. ON AUGUST NINETEEN, NINETEEN SIXTY, ABOVE PASSPORT RENEWED BY DELANO MC KELVEY, AMERICAN CONSUL, AMERICAN EMBASSY, LIMA, FOR ADDITIONAL TWO YEARS. NO PHOTO

2 - Bureau
2 - Teletype Unit
1 - WFO

PJM:ctw
(5)

REC- 62

[redacted]

EX-108

DEC 4 1961

Approved: M.W. Johnson Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FD-36 (Rev. 12-13-56)

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via _____ _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

[redacted]

b3
b7E

PAGE TWO

OR ADDITIONAL INFO AVAILABLE. PREVIOUS APPLICATIONS, CONTAINING PHOTO AND ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE DATA, BEING REQUESTED OF FRC, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, UNAVAILABLE UNTIL DECEMBER ONE NEXT AT SOONEST. WFO WILL SUTEL WHEN MADE AVAILABLE. ALBANY ALSO CHECK AT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ABOVE COMPANY. PENDING.

cc Mr. [illegible]

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

1-Orig
1-Yellow

12-1-61

CODE 1-Liaison
1-Mr. Foarde

CABLEGRAM

URGENT

REC-6 [redacted]

b3
b7E

EX-108

TO LEGAL ATTACHE MEXICO CITY

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] REBUCAB NOVEMBER TWENTY NINE LAST. INVESTIGATION TO DATE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS: JOSE SANTOS NOT INTERVIEWED TO DATE AND MRS. JOSE SANTOS FURNISHED FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING VICTIM, KAPLAN AND VICTIM'S WIFE. SHE ADVISED HER HUSBAND DEVELOPED FORMULA TO MAKE SOLID MOLASSES. AGREEMENT NEVER REACHED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH FIDEL CASTRO ON FORMULA. HUSBAND, WITH JOEL KAPLAN AND VICTIM, FOUNDED AMERICAN SUCROSE COMPANY ONE YEAR AGO. KAPLAN LIQUIDATING INTERESTS IN SOUTHWESTERN SUGAR AND MOLASSES COMPANY TO FINANCE NEW COMPANY AND HAD FINANCIAL TROUBLE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. NEW COMPANY TO BUILD PLANT IN HOUSTON, TEXAS. HUSBAND COULD THINK OF NO REASON FOR TRIP TO MEXICO CITY BY KAPLAN AND VICTIM. QUOTED MRS. VIDAL AS STATING KAPLAN CALLED VICTIM FROM TEXAS TO ADVISE HE COULD NOT MEET HIM IN MEXICO SINCE KAPLAN HAD TO GO TO PERU. ALSO QUOTED MRS. VIDAL AS EXPRESSING RELUCTANCE TO VIEW BODY OF HUSBAND STATING SHE WAS AFRAID HE WOULD TALK TO HER. MRS. SANTOS SAID SHE NEVER HEARD OF ALLEGED BEATING RECEIVED BY SUBJECT AND HER HUSBAND NEVER MENTIONED

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

JFK jad (5)

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (detached)

NOTE: We are handling all reasonable leads [redacted] since captioned American citizen found murdered in Mexico City on 11-22-61. Cable sent via leased line at no cost to the Bureau.

b3
b7E

note cont. page 2

VIA CABLEGRAM

62 DEC 8 1961

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

10:43 pm per MZ

CABLE LEGAT MEXICO
RE: LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.

SUCH A BEATING. [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted]

[redacted] PASSPORT OFFICE FILES CONTAIN APPLICATION OF JOEL DAVID KAPLAN, BORN OCTOBER SEVENTEEN, ONE NINE TWO SIX, NEW YORK CITY, FOR PASSPORT NUMBER ONE ONE SIX SIX FOUR NINE EIGHT. RESIDENCE LISTED AS TWO ONE FIVE EAST SEVEN NINE STREET, NEW YORK CITY AND FOREIGN ADDRESS IS HOTEL BOLIVAR, LIMA,

NOTE Cont: If not sent before 8 p.m., 12-1-61, may be held until 10 a.m., 12-2-61. Handled as [redacted] matter. b3 b7E

CABLE TO LEGAT MEXICO
RE: LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.

PERU. PHOTO BEING OBTAINED. CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION FILED JANUARY, ONE NINE SIX ONE, IN NEW YORK STATE LISTS SUBSCRIBERS AND DIRECTORS OF AMERICAN SUCROSE COMPANY AS KAPLAN, VICTIM AND JOSEPH F. PADLON, ALSO LISTED AS ATTORNEY HANDLING INCORPORATION. DRIVERS LICENSE RECORDS NOT FILED NUMERICALLY AND ADDITIONAL LEADS OUTSTANDING RE HOLDER OF NEW YORK LICENSE MENTIONED URCAB NOVEMBER TWENTY EIGHT LAST.

NR. 936.
ENC. 696
CK. COT-ES 69
APPROVED BY COK
TYPED BY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 30 1961
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

URGENT 11-30-61 5-35 PM JFA

TO DIRECTOR 124 ATTENTION..LIAISON SECTION

FROM SAC, NEW YORK [redacted] 4 PAGES

b3
b6
b7C
b7E

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] RENYTEL NOV. TWENTYEIGHT LAST.

MRS. BLANCA SANTOS, [redacted]

THIS DATE ADVISED SAS DENNIS CREDDON AND THOMAS J. DOWLING THAT HER HUSBAND, JOSE SANTOS, WHO IS NOW ASSOCIATED WITH MONNE AND CO. ONE ONE ZERO FOUR EAST FORTIETH ST., NYC, IN CONNECTION WITH DEVELOPMENT OF A FRUIT PRESERVATIVE, DEVELOPED FORMULA TO MAKE SOLID MOLASSES. HE TRIED TO NEGOTIATE WITH FIDEL CASTRO CONCERNING THIS FORMULA BUT NEVER REACHED AN AGREEMENT. HE HAS KNOWN VIDAL, SR. ABOUT FOURTEEN YEARS, HAVING FIRST MET HIM IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. HE HAS KNOWN VIDAL, JR. ABOUT ONE YEAR. THE VIDALS INTRODUCED HIM TO JOEL KAPLAN, WHO WAS TO SUPPLY THE NECESSARY CAPTIAL FOR PLANT AND EQUIPMENT TO UTILIZE FORMULA. ABOUT ONE YEAR AGO HER HUSBAND, VIDAL, JR. AND KAPLAN FOUNDED AMERICAN SUCORSE CO. SANTOS WAS TO RECEIVE A SALARY OF EIGHTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND A ROYALTY ON BASIS OF PRODUCTION UTILIZING FORMULA HE HAD UNDER PATENT. KAPLAN, ACCORDING TO MRS. SANTOS, HAS PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO AT MADISON AVE. AND FIFTY SEVENTH ST., NYC. HE REPORTEDLY WAS LIQUIDATING HIS INTERESTS IN [redacted]

b3
b7E

END PAGE ONE

REC-62
DEC 4 1961
EX-108

SOUTHWESTERN SUGAR AND MOLLASSES CO. TO FINANCE THE NEW COMPANY AND HAS HAD FINANCIAL TROUBLE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN LATE AT TIMES IN PAYING HER HUSBAND-S SALARY. NEW COMPANY WAS TO BUILD PLANT IN HOUSTON, TEXAS AND KAPLAN HAD REPORTEDLY PURCHASED MACHINERY. KAPLAN AT ONE TIME MENTIONED TO SANTOS POSSIBILITY OF HIS GOING TO MEXICO CITY IN CONNECTION WITH FORMULA BUT NEVER MENTIONED THIS AGAIN. SHE AND HER HUSBAND KNEW KAPLAN AND VIDAL, JR. WERE SUPPOSED TO GO TO MEXICO CITY IN NOV. SIXTY ONE INCONNECTION WITH FORMULA BUT SHE HAD NO INFORMATION CONCERNING DETAILS AND HER HUSBAND COULD THINK OF NO REASON THAT THEY HAD TO GO TO MEXICO. SINCE DEATH OF VIDAL, JR., MRS. VIDAL TOLD HER THAT KAPLAN HAD CALLED FROM TEXAS AND TOLD VIDAL, JR. HE COULD NOT MEET HIM IN MEXICO AS HE HAD TO GO TO PERU. [redacted] b7D

[redacted]

[redacted] SHE ADVISED MRS. VIDAL ON NOV. TWENTYNINE LAST EXPRESSED DISLIKE AT HAVING TO VIEW BODY OF HUSBAND WHICH HAS BEEN RETURNED TO NYC AND STATED SHE WAS AFRAID

HE WOULD TALK TO HER. MRS. VIDAL TOLD MRS. SANTOS THAT JOEL KAPLAN HAD VISITED HER ON NOV. TWENTYNINE LAST AND MENTIONED TO HER THAT HE WAS GOING TO WASHINGTON THIS DATE. MRS. SANTOS COMMENTED THAT KAPLAN MADE NO MENTION OF THIS TRIP TO HER HUSBAND. WITH REGARD TO PURPORTED BEATING OF VIDAL, JR., SHE MENTIONED THAT SHE NEVER HEARD OF ANY SUCH BEATING PRIOR TO HIS DEATH AND HER HUSBAND, WHO HAD CLOSE CONTACT WITH HIM UP UNTIL HE DEPARTED FOR MEXICO, NEVER MENTIONED SUCH A BEATING. b6 b7c

END PAGE THREE

b6
b7C

AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE THIS DATE TO INTERVIEW JOSE SANTOS WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

END 14

NY R ~~13~~ WA HFL

cc Mr. Foode

NOVEMBER 22, 1961

CODE

CABLEGRAM URGENT

TO LEGAL ATTACHE, MEXICO CITY

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

LUIS MELCHOR VIDAL, [redacted] REURCAB NOVEMBER TWENTYONE. SUBJECT MAYBE IDENTICAL WITH LOUIS M. VIDAL, JUNIOR, BORN AUGUST TWO NINE, ONE NINE TWO EIGHT OR ONE NINE TWO NINE, NEW YORK CITY, FBI SEVEN EIGHT FIVE NAUGHT E. ENLISTED U. S. ARMY SEPTEMBER TWO NAUGHT, ONE NINE FIVE ONE, NEW YORK CITY, SERVICE NUMBER FIVE ONE ONE ONE EIGHT NAUGHT SIX SEVEN. ONLY ARREST, POLICE MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY, MAY TWO NINE, ONE NINE FIVE NINE, GRAND LARCENY, DISPOSITION UNKNOWN.

b3
b7E

NR. 926
ENC. 602
CK. RLP
APPROVED BY
TYPED BY

MCL
(5)

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit - Rm 849-RB (route through for review)

REC- 65 [redacted]

12 DEC 1 1961

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

VIA CABLEGRAM
NOV 22 1961
6:55 RAM

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

62 DEC 6

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

11-22-61X

J. Edgar Hoover
Director.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 7 850 E, is furnished ~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.~~

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Army	Louis M Vidal Jr #US51118067	September 20, 1951		
Police Department Maplewood, New Jersey	Louis M. Vidal Jr #1823	May 29, 1959	grand larceny	

Since neither fingerprints nor an identifying number which is indexed in our files accompanied your request, FBI cannot guarantee in any manner that this material concerns the individual in whom you are interested.

File

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

11-22-61X

J. Edgar Hoover
Director.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 7 850 E, is furnished ~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.~~

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	Description Race: White Sex: Male Height: 5 feet 10 inches Weight: 209 pounds Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Date and Place of birth: August 29, 1928 New York, New York Occupation: Business Executive Residence: 1465 West End Avenue New York 24, New York in 1959			

Since neither fingerprints nor an identifying number which is indexed in our files accompanied your request, FBI cannot guarantee in any manner that this material concerns the individual in whom you are interested.

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

3

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

M-22-61X

J. Edgar Hoover
Director.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 7 850 E, is furnished ~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.~~

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	This confirms FBI wire dated 11-22-61 to Legal Attache Mexico City.			

Since neither fingerprints nor an identifying number which is indexed in our files accompanied your request, FBI cannot guarantee in any manner that this material concerns the individual in whom you are interested.

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

4-3 (Rev. 6-2-61)

DECODED COPY

☐ **Airgram** ☒ **Cablegram**

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

URGENT 11-22-61

TO DIRECTOR

FROM LEGAT, MEXICO CITY 828

LUIS MELCHOR VIDAL, [redacted] REMYCAB NOVEMBER 21, LAST. [redacted] WHO HAS FURNISHED RELIABLE INFORMATION IN THE PAST, ADVISED TODAY THAT [redacted] INFORMATION DEVELOPED THAT SUBJECT HAS 2 1/2 INCH SCAR ABOVE LEFT EAR RECEIVED TWO YEARS AGO NEW YORK CITY AS RESULT SUBJECT'S PRO-CASTRO ACTIVITIES AND THAT SUBJECT POSSIBLY WORKED FOR FIDEL CASTRO IN US. [redacted]

b3
b6
b7C
b7D
b7E

b3
b7E

JOHN F. DESMOND

RECEIVED: 11-23-61 10:40 PM

12 DEC 1 1961 RN

62 DEC 8 1961

3RD CC-MR. L'ALLIER

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

Filed per Jaro 9:00 A.M. 11/24

4-22 (Rev. 1-22-60)

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Branch

11/23, 1961

- [ ] Name Searching Unit - Room 6527
- [ ] Service Unit - Room 6524
- [ ] Forward to File Review
- [ ] Attention _____
- [x] Return to Foards 849 LB
  Supervisor Room Ext.

Type of References Requested:
- [ ] Regular Request (Analytical Search)
- [x] All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
- [ ] Subversive References Only
- [ ] Nonsubversive References Only
- [ ] Main _____ References Only

Type of Search Requested:
- [ ] Restricted to Locality of _____
- [ ] Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
- [ ] Buildup [ ] Variations

Subject Louis M. Vidal Jr
Birthdate & Place 8/29/29 nyc.
Address _____

Localities _____

R# _____ Date 11/23 Searcher Initials Clm

Prod. _____

	FILE NUMBER	SERIAL
L	62-68471 Nd Poss Father	
NI	[redacted]	
NI		
NI		
NI		
NI		
	Louis	
I	100-237194-849	
NI	[redacted]	
NI		
NI		
NI		
NI		
NI		
	Approx 50 other refs dated before 1957 not listed	

b3
b7E

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 24 1961
TELETYPE

URGENT 11-24-61 3-42 PM PC

TO DIRECTOR 4 ATT.. LIAISON SECTION

FROM SAC, NEW YORK [redacted]

b3
b7E

CHANGED. LUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.., [redacted]

TITLE MARKED CHANGED TO REFLECT CORRECT SPELLING OF SUBJECT-S MIDDLE NAME AND THE ADDITION OF JR. TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN SUBJECT AND HIS FATHER. RENYTEL TO THE BUREAU, NOVEMBER TWENTYTHREE, LAST. FILES OF BSS AND BCI OF NYCPD CONTAIN NO INFO IDENTIFIABLE WITH SUBJECT, INDICATING THAT HE HAS EVER BEEN ARRESTED. THEY DID REFLECT THAT HE WAS FINGERPRINTED APRIL FOURTEEN, SIXTY, AS CABARET EMPLOYEE AND ISSUED TEMPORARY PERMIT NUMBER J ONE ONE NINE SEVEN SIX, AS MANAGER OF D-AMORES, THREE SIX THREE TWO WHITE PLAINS ROAD, BRONX, OY. SUBJ NEVER PICKED UP PERMANENT PERMIT AS INSTRUCTED IN SEPTEMBER SIXTY. SUBJ AT THAT TIME DESCRIBED AS BEING WHITE MALE, BORN AUGUST TWENTYNINE, TWENTYNINE, NYC, GZVE FEET TEN INCHES, TWO HUNDRED TEN POUNDS, AND AS HAVING BROWN HAIR AND EYES. HE RESIDED AT FOUR SIX FIVE WEST END AVE., NYC.

REC-65 NOT. 18 [redacted]

12 DEC 1 1961

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS [redacted]

b7D

END PAGE ONE

[redacted] AND [redacted] CONTACTED RE b7D

SUBJECT WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. [redacted]

WHOSE IDENTITY SHOULD BE CONCEALED, THIS DATE ADVISED SOUTHWESTERN SUGAR AND MOLASSES COMPANY FOUNDED BY ABRAHAM I. KAPLAN AND NOW OPERATED BY JACK KAPLAN AND A NEWPHEW WHO MIGHT POSSIBLY BE THE JOSEPH KAPLAN IN QUESTION. KAPLAN, REPUTED TO BE WORTH IN EXCESS OF FIFTEEN MILLION DOLLARS, DEALERS IN SUGAR AND MOLASSES IN CUBA, MEXICO AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC., HANDLE APPROXIMATELY SIXTY PER CENT OF THE MOLASSES BUSINESS IN MEXICO., HAVE TERMINALS IN HOUSTON, TEXAS, VERA-CRUZ, AND ELSEWHERE, AND HAVE OTHER DIVERSIFIED INTERESTS, SUCH AS LUMBER HOLDINGS. SUBJECT, WHO DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS OWNER OF PAINT COMPANY OF AMERICA, TWO TWO NINE FULTON ST., NYC, INTERVIEWED BY NYO JULY TWENTYSIX, SIXTY. ADVISED HE HAD BEEN TO HAVANA, CUBA, ON JUNE TWENTYSEVEN, SIXTY,, WHERE HE HAD SPENT TWENTY HOURS. ADVISED HE WAS A VERY CLOSE FRIEND OF JULIAN ZULUETA, CHAIRMAN OF CENTRAL CAJUANI. STATED THAT ZULUETA WAS VERY CLOSE TO PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO, AND WITH ECONOMIC ADVISORS OF PRESENT CUBAN GOVERNMENT. VIDAL INDICATED THAT ONE JOSE MARTINEZ, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BANCO CONTINENTAL, A CONFIDANT OF ZULUETA, HAD CONTACTED HIM IN

NEW YORK AND WHEN HE GOT TO HAVANA, MARTINEZ MET HIM AND IMMEDIATELY TOOK HIM TO SEE ZULUETA. VIDAL HAD IMPRESSION THAT ZULUETA, ALTHOUGH CLOSE TO THE INNER CIRCLE OF FIDEL CASTRO, WAS NOT IN FULL SUPPORT OF THE CUBAN REGIME. ZULUETA MADE VIDAL A PROPOSITION TO ASSIST AMERICAN BUSINESS INTERESTS IN CUBA IF THERE WOULD BE NO VIOLATION OF US LAW. VIDAL DESCRIBED THE FOLLOWING POINTS AS BEING PRESENTED TO HIM BY ZULUETA FOR CONSIDERATION.. /ONE/ CONTACT AMERICAN BANKS WITH BRANCHES IN CUBA SUCH AS NATIONAL CITY BANK, CHASE MANHATTAN, FIRST BANK OF BOSTON AND ROYAL BANK OF CANADA, AND BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA., AND ASCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT THESE BANKS WOULD BE WILLING TO SELL THEIR INTERESTS AND HOLDINGS IN CUBA TO ZULUETA. /TWO/ CONTACT AMERICAN SUGAR COMPANIES HAVING HOLDINGS AND INTERESTS IN CUBA TO ASCERTAN WHETHER OR NOT THESE AMERICAN COMPANIES WOULD BE WILLING TO SELL THEIR HOLDINGS TO ZULUETA. /THREE/ ASCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT THERE WOULD BE AMERICAN TECHNICIANS AVAILABLE AND WILLING TO TRAVEL TO WORK IN CUBAN CONCERNS WHICH WOULD BE FINANCED BY CUBAN MONEY. /FOUR/ CONTACT INDIVIDUALS IN THE US WHO HOLD CUBAN PESOS AND ARE WILLING TO CONVERT THESE PESOS INTO NEW ISSUES OF CUBAN PESOS. VIDAL ADVISED THAT ZULUETA EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS WILLING TO ASSUME THE PURCHASE OF AMERICAN INTERESTS IN CUBA WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT AFTER THE PRESENT REGIME OF PRIME MINISTER CASTRO IS OVERTHROWN, THE INTERESTS WOULD

P

AGE FOUR

THEN REVERT TO THE ORIGINAL AMERICAN OWNERS. VIDAL STATED THAT HE WAS FULLY COGNIZANT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION ACT AND THAT IF HE DID UNDERTAKE TO REPRESENT ZULUETA IN THESE INTERESTS, HE WOULD INCUR THE RESPONSIBILITY OF REGISTERING UNDER THE FARA OF THIRTYEIGHT. VIDAL WAS ADVISED THAT THE FBI COULD NOT ADVISE HIM TO ACCEPT OR DECLINE THIS OFFER OF ZULUETA AND THAT WHATEVER ACTION HE TOOK WOULD BE ENTIRELY HIS DECISION TO MAKE. VIDAL STATED THAT HE WAS COGNIZANT OF THE FACT THAT THE BUREAU COULD NOT DIRECT HIM ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, BUT DESIRED TO FURNISH THE ABOVE INFORMATION IN ORDER THAT THE BUREAU WOULD BE APPRISED OF HIS ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH JULIAN ZULUETA. NYO CONTEMPLATES NO FURTHER ACTION THIS MATTER AT THIS TIME AND WILL AWAIT SPECIFIC BUREAU INSTRUCTIONS. RUC.

END

NY R 4 [illegible] WA JDS

cc Mr. Foarde

TELETYPE UNIT

4-3 (Rev. 6-2-61)

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

DECODED COPY

☐ **Airgram** ☒ **Cablegram**

URGENT 11-24-61

TO DIRECTOR

FROM LEGAT, MEXICO CITY No. 829

LUIS MELCHOR VIDAL, [redacted] REBUCAB NOVEMBER 22 LAST. FOLLOWING LOCATION VIDAL'S BODY AND VERIFICATION HE HAD BEEN SHOT SEVERAL TIMES, HIS WIFE TERESA VIDAL ARRIVED MEXICO CITY NOVEMBER 23 LAST [redacted] SHE HAS FURNISHED LITTLE INFORMATION BUT STATED THAT PRIOR TO HER DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK, HER FATHER-IN-LAW, LUIS VIDAL, SR., ADVISED HER TO SAY NOTHING BUT REFER ALL INQUIRIES TO HIM. SHE STATED THAT JOE VALERIANA, [redacted] AND ONE PAT, LNU, FRIENDS OF DECEASED APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS AGO HAD SEEN SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS ADMINISTERING BEATING TO DECEASED. ONE INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED IN BEATING WAS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION THEREWITH. SHE ALSO STATED RAUL AND ANGELINA CARRASQUILLO, [redacted] ARE FRIENDS OF FAMILY AND MAY HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF VIDAL'S ACTIVITIES.

b3
b6
b7C
b7D
b7E

[redacted]

REC- 65

JOHN F. DESMOND

RECEIVED: 5:40 PM

3RD CC-MR. L'ALLIER

PLT

12 DEC 1 1961

62 DEC 8 1961

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

FD-4-3 (Rev. 6-2-61)

DECODED COPY

☐ **Airgram** ☒ **Cablegram**

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

L'ALLIER

URGENT 11-25-61

TO DIRECTOR

FROM LEGAT, MEXICO CITY NO. 833

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] REMYCAB NOVEMBER 24 LAST. [redacted]

b3
b6
b7C
b7D
b7E

JOHN F. DESMOND

RECEIVED: 4:20 PM CTF

REC-65 [redacted]

12 DEC 1 1961

teletype New York 11/27/61 88-1 sent

cc Mr. Tolson

3RD CC-MR. L'ALLIER

62 DEC 8 1961

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 26 1961
TELETYPE

URGENT 11-26-61 7-17 PM TVQ

TO DIRECTOR, /2/ FBI / ATTENTION LIAISION SECTION/

FROM SAC, NEW YORK [redacted] 2 PAGES

b3
b7E

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] REBUTEL THIS DATE. TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES NEW YORK CITY AREA CONTAIN NO LISTING FOR JOE VALERIANA. NEW YORK CITY TELEPHONE BO- NINE THREE ONE ZERO ZERO DOES NOT ANSWER AND ON BASIS OF DIGITS AND EXCHANGE IT IS PROBABLY A BUSINESS PHONE. SUBJECT IDENTIFIED BY ANGELINA CARRASQUILLO AS THE BROTHER - IN LAW OF HER HUSBAND RAUL. SHE LAST SAW SUBJECT ABOUT FOUR WEEKS AGO AND KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT HIS DEATH NOR HIS BUSINESS. ADVISED SHE AND RAUL HAVE HAD NOTHING BUT A FAMILY RELATIONSHIP WITH SUBJECT AND SUGGESTED CONTACT WITH SUBJECTS WIFE WHO IS RAULS SISTER. SHE DID NOT KNOW JOE VALERIANA. RAUL NOT AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW AS HE WAS OUT DRINKING WITH FRIENDS. HE WILL BE AVAILABLE TOMMOROW. VIDALS WIDOW INTERVIEWED ELEVEN TWENTY THREE SIXTY ONE, BY NEW YORK OFFICE IN PRESENCE OF VIDAL SR. [redacted] WHO IS SEVENTY ONE YEARS OF AGE. VIDAL SR., SPOKE IN A RAMBLING MANNER AND WAS AT TIMES INCOHERENT. HE WAS TOLD BY SUBJECT S WIDOW TO KEEP QUIET AND LET HER HANDLE THE INTERVIEW. PROBABILITY IS THAT

END PAGE ONE

REC- 65
12 DEC 1 1961
DEC 8 1961

PAGE TWO

SUBJECTS WIDOW UNLESS BEING EVASIVE WOULD NOT MAKE STATEMENT THAT ALL INQUIRIES BE DIRECTED TO VIDAL SR., OR DESCRIBE HER BROTHER AND HIS WIFE AS CLOSE FAMILY FRIENDS RATHER THAN AS RELATIVES. UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT MADE THIS DATE TO CONTACT VIDAL SR. NEW YORK OFFICE WILL CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW JOE VALERIANA, PAT / LNU/ AND VIDAL SR. RAUL CARRASQUILLO WILL BE INTERVIEWED ELEVEN TWENTY SEVEN SIXTY ONE.

END PAGE TWO

END

NY R 02 WA NH

CC Mr. Jonde

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

TO : W. C. Sullivan

DATE: November 27, 1961

FROM : R. O. L'Allier

SUBJECT: LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.

[redacted]

b3
b7D
b7E

Vidal, an American citizen sought [redacted] since November 13, 1961, as missing person, was found shot to death near Mexico City November 22, 1961. Legal Attache (Legat), Mexico City, has advised Mexican authorities believe case has international ramifications [redacted] Legat has asked Bureau to handle U.S. leads in case [redacted]

Our inquiries and file reviews indicate Vidal's father claimed in 1957 to be personal friend of Rafael Trujillo and to have done business with Dominican Republic for over 30 years. In fact, he stated he was founding director of Dominican Chamber of Commerce, New York City, registered agent of Dominican Republic. Vidal himself told us last year he had visited Cuba and conferred with Julian Zulueta, described as close to Castro and inner circle, who asked him to contact American concerns with Cuban holdings in effort to arrange purchase of these by Zulueta. Subject acknowledged responsibility to register as foreign agent if he accepted this deal and said he wished to furnish Bureau with this information so we would know what he was doing with Zulueta. We do not know what subsequent action he took.

We have now received additional lead from Legat, Mexico, who asked that New York City locate and interview one Gustavo Vidal who was in Mexico City until approximate date of murder. Further, New York City has received information from anonymous male who claims [redacted]

b3
b6
b7C
b7D
b7E

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. J.P. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Donahue
1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. Day

REC- 65

12 DEC 1 1961

GAD:gp
(8)

Enclosure

62 DEC 1961

Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan
RE: LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.

[redacted] b6

This anonymous source also claims [redacted] b7C b7D

Vidal's employer, Joseph Kaplan, is in New York City and it can be expected that numerous additional leads in this case may be developed in the New York area.

Although this case is, apparently, not within Bureau primary jurisdiction, we believe we should continue to handle the U.S. leads [redacted] b7D b7E

To date, U.S. press attention has been given this case, to our knowledge, only in a limited coverage.

ACTION:

Attached for approval is teletype to New York transmitting latest leads from Mexico and responding to New York's inquiry as to extent of investigation desired by instructing that Bureau will handle all reasonable U.S. leads arising from this case.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 27 1961

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Candy

URGENT 11-27-61 8-27 PM JFA

TO DIRECTOR /9/ AND SAC, ALBANY

ATTENTION..LIAISON SECTION

FROM SAC, NEW YORK 6 PAGES [redacted] b3 b7E

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] RENYTELS NOV. TWENTY SIX AND NOV. TWENTY SEVEN, SIXTY ONE. LUIS VIDAL, SR., INTERVIEWED THIS DATE, ADVISED HE WENT TO MEXICO NOV. TWENTY FOUR, SIXTY ONE, AND RETURNED WITH HIS DAUGHTER IN LAW TO NYC IMMEDIATELY. SUBJECT-S BODY, ACCORDING TO VIDAL, SR., LEFT MEXICO CITY THIS DATE BY TRAIN ENROUTE TO NEW YORK. VIDAL, SR. ADVISED THAT JOSE SANTOS, DESCRIBED AS ORIGINALLY COMING FROM SPAIN, WHO IS MARRIED TO A DOMINICAN WOMAN AND RESIDING AT [redacted] b6 b7C [redacted] HAD AN IDEA FOR A NEW PROCESS WHICH WOULD UTILIZE THIRD - CLASS MOLASSES, WHICH IDEA HE HELPED HIM DEVELOP INTO WORKING FORM. SUBSEQUENTLY, HE ARRANGED FOR THE FORMATION OF A NEW COMPANY CONSISTING OF SANTOS, VIDAL, JR. AND JOE KAPLAN, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS THE SON OF AN OLD FRIEND OF HIS FATHER, A. I. KAPLAN. JOE KAPLAN HAS EXTENSIVE INTERESTS IN THE MOLASSES [redacted] b3 b7E

END PAGE ONE

REC- 65

DEC 1 1961

64 DEC 8 1961

FIELD AND IT WAS FOR THIS REASON HE WANTED TO HAVE HIM HANDLE THE PROCESS. THIS COMPANY IS KNOWN AS THE AMERICAN SUCROSE CO. PATENT FOR PROCESS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF JOE KAPLAN. HIS SON-S DEPARTURE FOR MEXICO CITY WAS BASED UPON AN INQUIRY RECEIVED FROM THE SAENZ SUGAR PEOPLE CONCERNING UTILIZATION OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED PROCESS. VIDAL, SR. STATED HE INSTRUCTED HIS SON AND JOE KAPLAN TO PROCEED TO MEXICO CITY TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER AND THAT PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE KAPLAN FOUND THAT HE HAD TO GO TO LIMA, PERU, CONCERNING TWO TANKERS THAT WERE BEING HELD UP AND TOLD VIDAL, JR. THAT HE WOULD MEET HIM IN MEXICO CITY. VIDAL, SR. STATED HE TOLD HIS SON NOT TO GO TO MEXICO CITY UNTIL HE HEARD FROM KAPLAN AS TO WHAT SPECIFIC DATE HE WOULD ARRIVE IN MEXICO CITY AS THIS WAS NOT A PLACE TO GO FOR THE FIRST TIME WITHOUT BEING ACCOMPANIED BY A GOOD FRIEND, BUT THAT VIDAL, JR. FELT THAT HE COULD START THE NEGOTIATIONS AND DEPARTED AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED. AFTER HIS SON-S DEPARTURE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A TELEGRAM ADDRESSED TO HIS DAUGHTER, DATED NOV. TWENTY TWO, PURPORTEDLY SIGNED BY HIS SON, HE HAD NO DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH HIM. VIDAL, SR. DESCRIBED JOE VALERIANA AS A GOOD FRIEND OF THE SUBJECT, WHO IS EMPLOYED BY EASTMAN DILLON UNION SECURITIES,

NY. N.Y.

END PAGE TWO

FIFTEEN BROAD ST., NYC. CONCERNING ATTACK MADE ON SON, PURPORTEDLY WITNESSED BY VALERIANA, VIDAL, SR. STATED THAT THREE OR FOUR WEEKS PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR MEXICO THREE MEN, TWO OF WHOM HE BELIEVED TO BE CUBAN, BASED UPON THEIR ACCENT AND VOCABULARY, CAME TO HIS OFFICE TO SPEAK TO HIS SON. THEY INDICATED THAT THEY HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE VIDALS COULD HELP IN THE SECURING OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND MATERIEL FOR SHIPMENT TO THE CARIBBEAN AREA. THEY REFUSED TO IDENTIFY THE PERSON WHO GAVE THEM THIS INFORMATION AND WERE TOLD THAT WHILE THIS WAS NOT THEIR REGULAR BUSINESS IN THE PAST THE VIDALS HAD ASSISTED SEVERAL OF THEIR CUSTOMERS WITH SUCH EQUIPMENT BUT THAT THEY HAD CLEARED THESE TRANSACTIONS WITH THE US GOVERNMENT AND THAT THEY ONLY DID IT AS COURTESY TO THEIR CUSTOMERS. HE INDICATED THE INDIVIDUALS GOT ANGRY AND LEFT AND THAT SUBSEQUENTLY THEY ENCOUNTERED HIS SON ON THE STREET AND HAD AN ARGUMENT, WHICH WAS WITNESSED BY VALERIANA. HE COULD SUPPLY NO ADDITIONAL DETAILS CONCERNING THIS ARGUMENT. NYO THIS DATE MADE AN ATTEMPT TO CONTACT JOE VALERIANA AT THIS PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT BUT ASCERTAINED HE IS PRESENTLY ON VACATION AND WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL DEC. FOUR. HE

END PAGE THREE

CAN BE CONTACTED CARE OF HIS FATHER, JOSEPH VALERIANA, WHO HAS A CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS IN UTICA, NEW YORK. FOR INFORMATION ALBANY, SUBJECT FOUND [redacted] HAVING BEEN SHOT SEVERAL TIMES [redacted] b6 b7C b7D b7E [redacted] LOCATE AND INTERVIEW JOE VALERIANA, WHO OPERATES CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS IN UTICA, NEW YORK. DEVELOP FULLY ANY KNOWLEDGE THAT VALERIANA HAS CONCERNING THE ASSOCIATION OF VIDAL, JR. WITH THE AMERICAN SUCROSE CO., JOSE SANTOS, JOE KAPLAN AND ANY IDENTIFYING DATA HE MIGHT POSSESS CONCERNING THE THREE INDIVIDUALS WITH WHOM SUBJECT REPORTED TO HAVE HAD FIGHT. OBTAIN COMPLETE DETAILS OF FIGHT, INCLUDING ANY KNOWLEDGE HE MIGHT HAVE CONCERNING ARREST OF ANY OF THE PARTICIPANTS. [redacted] THIS DATE ADVISED THAT JACOB M. KAPLAN, STEP-SON OF ABRAHAM I. KAPLAN, IS PRESIDENT OF SOUTHWESTERN SUGAR AND MOLASSES CO. AND THAT JOEL M. KAPLAN, THE SON OF ABRAHAM I. KAPLAN, WHILE NOT AN OFFICER IN THIS COMPANY, ACTS AS ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT. JOEL KAPLAN BORN IN US DURING NINETEEN TWENTY SEVEN AND THROUGHOUT HIS BUSINESS CAREER HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH KAPLAN INTERESTS. JACOB M. KAPLAN ON BASIS OF INFORMATION FURNISHED [redacted] IS A WELL KNOWN BUSINESSMAN AND FINANCIER WHO HAS

BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH A NUMBER OF REAL ESTATE AND INVESTMENT HOLDING COMPANIES. RAUL CARRASQUELLO AND TITO CARRASQUELLO, [redacted] b6 b7C [redacted] WERE INTERVIEWED THIS DATE JOINTLY IN THE PRESENCE OF ANGELINA CARRASQUELLO, WIFE OF RAUL, WHO ACTED AS INTERPRETER. RAUL, THE BROTHER OF TERESA VIDAL, WIFE OF THE SUBJECT, AND THE OTHERS LAST SAW SUBJECT APPROXIMATELY THE FIRST OF OF NOV. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR MEXICO. HIS SPECIFIC REASON FOR THE// THE TRIP TO MEXICO IS NOT KNOWN TO THEM. SUBJECT WAS CONNECTED IN A BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT WITH JOSEPH KAPLAN AND JOSE SANTOS AND WAS APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF A FIRM ORGANIZED BY KAPLAN DEALING IN A BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CONCERNING A NEW SUGAR FORMULA. THE EXACT NATURE OF THE FORMULA OR BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT IS NOT KNOWN TO THEM. WHEN SUBJECT DEPARTED FOR MEXICO, KAPLAN AND SANTOS WERE TO ACCOMPANY HIM BUT KAPLAN HAD A CHANGE OF PLAN AND MADE A TRIP TO LIMA, PERU. THEY COULD FURNISH NO INFORMATION AS TO ACTIVITIES OF SANTOS OR WHETHER HE WENT TO MEXICO AS PLANNED. THEY STATED THAT SUBJECT-S JOURNEY TO MEXICO WAS AT THE INSTIGATION OF KAPLAN, WHO WAS THE GUIDING FORCE IN THE BUSINESS. SANTOS, WHO WAS DESCRIBED AS A SPANIARD WHO RESIDED TEN YEARS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, WAS

AGGRIEVED THAT SUBJECT WAS APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF THE BUSINESS RATHER THAN HIM. THEY HAVE NO INFORMATION AS TO WHO MURDERED SUBJECT BUT FEEL THAT IT IS CONNECTED IN SOME WAY WITH THE BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS CONCERNING THE FORMULA.

END

NY R 9 WA RAM

cc: Mr. Frank

11/27/61

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

1 - Orig
1 - Yellow
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. J.P. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Donahoe

1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. Day

b3
b6
b7C
b7D
b7E

REC- 65

[redacted]

TO SAC NEW YORK

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.; [redacted] REURTEL NOVEMBER TWENTY SIX LAST AND BUTEL SAME DATE. [redacted]

[redacted] REURTEL NOVEMBER TWENTY SEVEN INSTANT. BUREAU WILL HANDLE ALL REASONABLE U.S. LEADS ARISING FROM THIS CASE [redacted]

[redacted] INTERVIEWS SHOULD BE HANDLED PROMPTLY AND RESULTS FURNISHED BY TELETYPE FOR TRANSMITTAL TO LEGAT, MEXICO.

GAD:gp
(9)

NOTE:

See cover memorandum L'Allier to Sullivan re same caption, same date, prepared GAD:gp

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☑

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 28 1961
TELETYPE

04 DEC 8 1961

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 27 1961

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. Belmont ✓
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan ✓
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

URGENT 11-27-61 1-16 PM JLW

TO DIRECTOR /3/

ATTENTION LIAISON SECTION

FROM SAC NEW YORK 3P

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] RENYTEL NOV. TWENTYSIX LAST AT TWO TWENTY EIGHT AM THIS DATE, ANONYMOUS MALE FURNISHED FOLLOWING INFO. b3 b7D b7E

[redacted]

END PAGE ONE

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

[redacted] b7D

[redacted] NYO COVERING PREVIOUSLY SPECIFIED LEADS. IN VIEW OF ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS AND POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF KAPLAN AND/OR VIDAL-S WIFE, BUREAU MAY WISH TO RECONTACT LEGAT FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION DEVELOPED AND INDICATE THE EXTENT OF INVESTIGATION DESIRED OF NYO.

END

NY R 3 WA MSL

U

R

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 28 1961

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Evans
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

GENT 11-28-61 4-24 PM JFA

TO DIRECTOR -7- /ATTENTION..LIAISON SECTION/

FROM SAC, NEW YORK [redacted]

b3
b7E

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] REBUTEL THIS DATE. GUSTAVO VIDAL IN INTERVIEW ADVISED HE IS NOT RELATED IN ANY WAY TO SUBJECT. HE IS EMPLOYED AS A CONSULTANT FOR THE AMERICAN CAN CO. AND RECENTLY RETURNED TO NYC FROM A BUSINESS TRIP TO BRAZIL, VENEZUELA AND MEXICO CITY, UNDERTAKEN FOR THIS CO. HE ARRIVED IN MEXICO CITY ON NOV. SIX, SIXTY ONE, AND REGISTERED AT THE HOTEL CONTINENTAL HILTON. HE DEPARTED NOV. TWELVE, SIXTY ONE, AT ELEVEN AM ENROUTE TO NY VIA AIR FRANCE. ONLY KNOWLEDGE HE HAD OF SUBJECT IS WHAT HE HAS READ IN THE NEWSPAPERS. LEO ISACSON, ATTORNEY REPRESENTING MRS. VIDAL, TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED NYO THIS DATE AND OFFERED TO MAKE AVAILABLE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES TAKEN FROM MEXICAN NEWSPAPERS BY SUBJECT'S [redacted] WIFE CONCERNING HIS KILLING AND PERTINENT TRANSLATIONS THEREOF. HE INDICATED THAT HE WISHED TO COOPERATE WITH THE BUREAU IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IF THE BUREAU OBTAINED ANY

REC- 65

END PAGE ONE

12 DEC 1 1961

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

4 DEC 8 1961

5

INFORMATION WHICH WOULD ASSIST HIM IN REPRESENTINGTHE WIFE HE WOULD BE APPRECIATIVE. HE WAS THANKED FOR HIS OFFER, WHICH WAS TACTFULLY DECLINED, AND HE WAS TOLD THAT THE FBI IS UNABLE TO MAKE AVAILABLE THE RESULTS OF ANY INQUIRIES EXCEPT AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW. HE ADVISED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD AND THAT ANY INFORMATION THAT COULD BE FURNISHED HIM WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THESE RESTIRCTIONS WOULD BE APPRECIATED AND HE INDICATED HE WOULD FURNISH ANY INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY HIM TO THE BUREAU WHICH HE WOULD DEEM PERTINENT. NYO WILL INTERVIEW JOSE SANTOS AND HIS WIFE FOR COMPLETE DETAILS CONCERNING THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH SUBJECT. IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH BUREAU INSTRUCTIONS IN REBUTEL, THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO HAVE LEGAT, MEXICO MAKE AVAILABLE COMPLETE DETAILS CONCERNING INVESTIGATION IN MEXICO TO DATE SO THAT DIRECTION OF FURTHER INVESTIGATION TO BE CONDUCTED AT NY CAN BE ESTABLISHED IN THE LIGHT OF THE FACTS DEVELOPED TO DATE.

END

~~CORR PAGE 1 LINE 12 WORD 3 SHOULD BE HIS~~

~~CORR PAGE 2 LINE 1 WORD 7 AND 8~~ SHOULD BE REPRESENTING THE

END AND ACK

NY R 7 WA JS

cc: Mr. Sullivan
Mr. May

4-3 (Rev. 6-2-61)

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

DECODED COPY

☐ **Airgram** ☒ **Cablegram**

URGENT 11-28-61

TO DIRECTOR

FROM LEGAT, MEXICO CITY NO. 838

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR. [redacted] REBUCAB NOVEMBER 26 LAST. [redacted] REQUEST BUREAU AT NEW YORK OBTAIN PHOTOGRAPH OF KAPLAN IF AVAILABLE AND ASCERTAIN HIS PERMANENT RESIDENCE, PRESENT WHEREABOUTS, AND TRAVELS DURING CURRENT MONTH, PARTICULARLY TO AND FROM MEXICO. ALSO REQUEST NEW YORK ASCERTAIN IDENTITY HOLDER NEW YORK DRIVERS LICENSE NUMBER 1220423.

b3
b7D
b7E

JOHN F. DESMOND

RECEIVED: 3:45 PM EJG

REC- 65 [redacted]

12 DEC 1 1961

3RD CC--MR. L'ALLIER

62 DEC 8 1961

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

FD-36 (Rev. 12-13-56)

FBI

Date: 12/5/61

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Mintz
Mr. Walters
Mr. Gandy

b3
b7D
b7E

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted]

FROM: SAC, WFO [redacted] (P)

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR. ATTENTION: LIAISON SECTION

[redacted]

(OO:Bu)

ReWFOteletypes November 30, 1961, and December 1, 1961, and Buteletype December 1, 1961.

Transmitted herewith to the Bureau are six copies and to New York and Albany one copy each of a letterhead memorandum entitled "LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR."

The files of the Passport Office were reviewed on 12/1/61 by SA CHARLES E. LENNON, and on 11/30/61 by IC PAUL M. CAVANAUGH.

On 12/4/61 Mr. ROBERT D. JOHNSON, Chief Counsel, Passport Office, USDS, advised SA KENNETH J. HASER that that office would interpose no objection to the Bureau's furnishing the passport information contained in the enclosed letterhead memo [redacted]

WFO will furnish copies of the passport photograph of JOEL DAVID KAPLAN as soon as they are processed.

6 ENCLOSURE

REC- 12 [redacted]

3 - Bureau (Enc 6)
1 - Albany [redacted] (Enc 1)(Info)(RM)
1 - New York [redacted] (Enc 1)(Info)(RM)
1 - WFO

11 DEC 7 1961

PJM:gjw
(6)

C. C. Wick

AGENCY Myers - Loc & 3 encls
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW.
HOW FORW.
BY

AIRTEL

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

64 DEC 12 1961

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
December 5, 1961

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.

The following information was obtained from a review of the files of the Passport Office, United States Department of State, on November 30, 1961, and December 1, 1961:

On August 18, 1958, Joel David Kaplan, who was born October 17, 1926, at New York, New York, was issued New York Series Passport Number 1166498. His home address was listed as 1100 Madison Avenue, New York City. His father is shown as Abram Isaac Kaplan, who was born March 18, 1878, in Russia, a United States citizen now residing in New York City, and his mother was listed as Ray Klimper Kaplan (illegible), who was born March 21, 1900, in New York City.

Joel David Kaplan was married October 14, 1956, to Bernice Nemirov Kaplan, who was born [redacted] at [redacted]. b6 b7C

In his passport application, Kaplan indicated that he planned to depart the United States at Houston, Texas, via Pan American World Airways on August 14, 1958, for approximately one-year business and pleasure trip to Mexico, Guatemala, San Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. A letter in this file from the Southwestern Sugar and Molasses Company, 115 Broadway, New York, New York, indicated that Kaplan is the son of the president of that company. Kaplan is further described as five feet nine inches in height, and having brown hair and eyes.

On August 19, 1960, Kaplan filed an application for renewal of the above passport at the American Embassy, Lima, Peru. On this occasion he listed his legal residence as 215 East 79th Street, New York, New York, and his foreign address as Hotel Bolivar, Lima, Peru. He listed his employment as representative for the Southwestern Sugar and Molasses Company. On August 19, 1960, Passport Number 1166498 was renewed by Delano McKelvey, American Consul, American Embassy, Lima, Peru, for an additional two years.

[redacted] b3 b7E

ENCLOSURE

12-6-61

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.

[redacted]

b3
b7E

[redacted]

FD-36 (Rev. 12-13-56)

F B I

Date: 11/29/61

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plain text or code)

AIRTEL AIRMAIL

Via _____ (Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: Director, FBI
Attention: Liaison Section

FROM: SAC, Albany [redacted] (RUC) b3 b7E

RE: LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.
[redacted]

ReNYtel 11/27/61

On 11/28/61, JOSEPH VALERIANO, Municipal Bond Trader and Registered Representative of the Eastman Dillon Union Securities, 15 Broad St., NYC, furnished the following information concerning the captioned individual to SAs RAYMOND A. CONNOLLY and J. LEWIS KELLY, when interviewed while vacationing with his parents, at [redacted] b6 b7C

The captioned subject was first met at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa. during approximately 1948 and there was some personal association between the two until VIDAL left approximately 1 year later. The next personal contact occurred when they met in Bethlehem, Pa., accidentally, during 1956, at which time VIDAL was then President of the Paint Corporation of America and VALERIANO was with another NYC brokerage office. Since 1956 business and social contacts with VIDAL continued until approximately one week prior to the latter's departure to Mexico City, around 11/18/61, and a rather close bond of friendship occurred during the past six months. [redacted] b3 b7E

REC- 34

From 1956 to the summer of 1961 VIDAL, who had also been President of the Shields Corporation of America, had engaged in various sorts of promotional work, dealing with a wide variety of business activities. On an unrecalled date during the summer of 1961, VALERIANO visited the VIDAL residence,

58 DEC 12 1961

4 - Bureau
2 - New York
1 - Albany
JLK/mkb

Approved: _____ Special Agent in Charge Sent _____ M Per _____

b3
b7E

777 Foster Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, and on that occasion met for the first and only time, JOE or JOEL KAPLAN, who was introduced by VIDAL as President of the newly formed American Sucrose Co., of which VIDAL was Vice President, Treasurer and Director. It was VALERIANO's understanding, from conversation on that and subsequent occasions, that KAPLAN had approximately 75% of the company's equity, that VIDAL had 10 to 15% and that another individual, whose name had been mentioned on the above occasion but presently not recalled, was in this company for another 10 or 15%. VALERIANO noted that the name JOSE SANTOS sounds familiar but that he never met this individual and actually knows nothing regarding him.

The American Sucrose Co. is known as a "paper company," the unknown value of which rested on a formula for the dehydration of molasses. VIDAL had informed him that this formula had been made available by the subject's father, although the original source of it was not known and apparently KAPLAN was contributing most of the operating expenses until the company's plans could be put into operation.

The subject's father was described as a past shareholder and present representative of a company phonetically known only as Pajeuski Pausat, with office at an address believed to be 229 Fulton St., Brooklyn, NY.

During the existence of the American Sucrose Co. the titles or positions held by KAPLAN and VIDAL were not known to have changed by VALERIANO, who stated he thought it odd that KAPLAN would be president of the organization if the formula involved had come from VIDAL's father, but reasoned further that perhaps this arrangement had been made based on KAPLAN's early supply of capital to the company.

In conversations with VIDAL, prior to his departure for Mexico City, it was learned that VIDAL's sole purpose of the trip was to contact individuals, known only as the SANS (phonetic) family, who were involved in the sugar industry and also in real

b3
b7E

estate in Mexico City, to close a business deal that had previously been discussed with them by the American Sucrose Co. VIDAL had stated that the SANS (ph) people were to contribute $250,000, that the American Sucrose Co. would contribute the formula and that both of these assets would be represented by the formation of a new company, but the equity distributed between SANS (ph) and the American Sucrose Co. backers. VIDAL had no other intended purpose for this trip, this was to have been his first trip to Mexico City and, therefore, it is most likely assumed that he immediately contacted the SANS (ph) family upon his arrival, despite newspaper publicity reflecting that he had not been in touch with them.

It was subsequently learned from Mrs. VIDAL that JOSEPH KAPLAN had originally planned to fly to Mexico City with VIDAL but had cancelled his flight for other plans, which included travel to Peru. Mrs. VIDAL also indicated she understood that at one point prior to his travel to Peru, KAPLAN had been in San Antonio, Texas, but the reason for this was unknown to her.

VIDAL's wife first informed VALERIANO that the captioned subject was missing in Mexico City immediately after she had received a telephonic inquiry concerning this matter from the NYC newspapers and as an assistance gesture he called the NY papers to verify that the first call had not been a hoax. He remained in contact with and tried to assist Mrs. VIDAL during the period of time VIDAL was missing and at no time did she indicate any inside knowledge of or the exact reason for her husband's disappearance and ultimately discovered murder.

Concerning VIDAL's association with American Sucrose Co., it was believed that the activities of this organization dominated his business time since its inception and that KAPLAN, who is only known through a family reputation, was considered by VIDAL as a trusted friend. VALERIANO denied any knowledge concerning a meeting between VIDAL and three persons who had previously been in VIDAL's father's office and claimed that at no time was he with VIDAL when any situation arising similar to this situation occurred. He pointed out that it must

b3
b7E

have been someone else in VIDAL's company if this actually happened but he noted that close recent contacts with VIDAL, which included weekly and bi-weekly contacts over the past six weeks, had disclosed that no mention of any such situation was ever made by VIDAL. He could suggest no one other than KAPLAN who could possibly have been with VIDAL under such circumstances.

He was advised by both Mrs. VIDAL and VIDAL that they had received annoying and even threatening telephone calls from anonymous sources for approximately the past six months and although Mrs. VIDAL felt that her husband's fate might have been related in some way to these calls, she personally felt that there was no connection between the two. VALERIANO explained his opinion by stating the calls had been going on for such a period of time that had the caller intended violence it undoubtedly would have occurred earlier.

He stated he could only speculate as to the reasons for VIDAL's death and believes most likely that the reasons would revolve around the formula intended to be utilized by the American Sucrose Company. He noted the possibility existed that robbery might have been a motive for VIDAL's death because although Mrs. VIDAL stated he was only carrying approximately $60 in cash plus company checks, VIDAL's appearance and effervescent manner might indicate wealth to strangers in Mexico City. It was his contention, however, that more likely, as stated above, the company's formula would be involved and because most likely he would have had it in his possession in Mexico City it was possibly the target for someone who knew or suspected that he would have.

VALERIANO, who stated he is returning to his NYC business address on 11/29/61, will be there if additional inquiries are necessary but has requested that his name and any information furnished be kept confidential, as much as possible, in view of the violence involved in this matter.

FD-36 (Rev. 12-13-56)

FBI

Date: 12/1/61

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
(Type in plain text or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR AND SACS ALBANY
NEW YORK

FROM: SAC, WFO [redacted]

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JUNIOR, [redacted] REWFOTEL NOVEMBER THIRTY LAST. PASSPORT FILES, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE, REVEALED JOEL DAVID KAPLAN BORN OCTOBER SEVENTEEN TWENTYSIX, NEW YORK CITY, RECEIVED NEW YORK SERIES PASSPORT ONE ONE SIX SIX FOUR NINE EIGHT ON AUGUST EIGHTEEN FIFTYEIGHT. HOME ADDRESS LISTED AS ONE ONE ZERO ZERO MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY. FATHER LISTED AS ABRAM ISAAC KAPLAN BORN MARCH EIGHTEEN SEVENTYEIGHT IN RUSSIA AND IS UNITED STATES CITIZEN NOW RESIDING NEW YORK CITY. MOTHER LISTED AS RAY KLIMPER KAPLAN (ILLEGIBLE) BORN MARCH TWENTYONE NINETEEN HUNDRED IN NEW YORK CITY. SUBJECT MARRIED OCTOBER FOURTEEN FIFTYSIX TO BERNICE NEMIROV KAPLAN, BORN [redacted] [redacted] AT [redacted] SUBJECT DESCRIBED FIVE FEET NINE INCHES BROWN HAIR AND EYES. SUBJECT PLANNED TO DEPART HOUSTIN TEXAS VIA PAA ON AUGUST FOURTEEN FIFTYEIGHT FOR ABOUT [redacted]

b3
b7E

b3
b6
b7C
b7E

2 - Bureau
2 - Teletype Unit
1 - WFO

REC-34

CEL:bff
(5)

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FD-36 (Rev. 12-13-56)

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via _____ _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

[redacted]

b3
b7E

PAGE TWO

A YEAR, BUSINESS AND PLEASURE, MEXICO, GUATEMALA, SALVADOR, NICARAGUA, PANAMA, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR AND PERU. A LETTER IN FILE FROM SOUTHWESTERN SUGAR AND MOLASSES COMPANY, ONE FIFTEEN BROADWAY, NEW YORK, STATED KAPLAN IS SON OF PRESIDENT OF COMPANY. PHOTOGRAPH WILL BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS PROCESSED.

cc [illegible]

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

EX-115

REC- 34

[redacted]

1-Orig
1-Yellow
1-Liaison
CODE 1-Mr. Foarde 12-4-61

b3
b7E

CABLEGRAM URGENT

TO LEGAL ATTACHE MEXICO CITY

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] REBUCAB DECEMBER ONE LAST. RECENT INVESTIGATION SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS: PASSPORT FILES SHOW ONE NINE FIVE EIGHT APPLICATION BY JOEL DAVID KAPLAN LISTING DESCRIPTION AS FIVE FEET NINE INCHES WITH BROWN HAIR AND EYES. KAPLAN MARRIED OCTOBER, ONE NINE FIVE SIX TO BERNICE NEMIROV. ALSO DESCRIBED AS SON OF PRESIDENT OF SOUTHWESTERN SUGAR AND MOLASSES COMPANY. INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPH VALERIANO, FRIEND OF VICTIM, ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE. HE HAS KNOWN VICTIM SINCE ONE NINE FOUR EIGHT BUT BUSINESS AND SOCIAL CONTACTS LIMITED TO PAST FIVE YEARS AND CLOSE FRIENDSHIP DEVELOPED ONLY RECENTLY. VALERIANO MET KAPLAN ONLY ONCE LAST SUMMER AND VICTIM INTRODUCED KAPLAN AS PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN SUCROSE COMPANY. THIS COMPANY DESCRIBED AS A QUOTE PAPER COMPANY UNQUOTE HAVING UNKNOWN VALUE BASED ON FORMULA FOR DEHYDRATION OF MOLASSES. VICTIM TOLD VALERIANO SOLE PURPOSE OF MEXICAN TRIP WAS CONTACT WITH SANS FAMILY TO CLOSE BUSINESS DEAL REGARDING FORMULA, NEW COMPANY TO BE FOUNDED TO WHICH SANS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TWO FIVE ZERO THOUSAND DOLLARS AND

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

JJF: jgc (5)

VIA CABLEGRAM
DEC 4 - 1961
10:45 PM

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (detached) See note on yellow page 2

[redacted]

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☑

58 DEC 12 1961

CABLE LEGAT MEXICO
RE: LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.

AMERICAN SUCROSE WOULD CONTRIBUTE FORMULA. VALERIANO INFORMED IMMEDIATELY AFTER VICTIM'S WIFE LEARNED OF DISAPPEARANCE AND HE MAINTAINED FREQUENT CONTACT WITH HER AND STATES SHE DID NOT AT ANY TIME INDICATE ANY KNOWLEDGE OF REASON FOR DISAPPEARANCE. VALERIANO DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF MEETING BETWEEN VICTIM AND THREE PERSONS WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN IN OFFICE OF VIDAL, SR. HE SAID IN CLOSE RECENT CONTACTS WITH VICTIM NO MENTION OF THIS ALLEGED INCIDENT WAS MADE TO HIM. BOTH VICTIM AND WIFE MENTIONED RECEIPT OF ANNOYING AND THREATENING ANONYMOUS CALLS DURING PAST SIX MONTHS. VALERIANO COULD ONLY SPECULATE AS TO REASONS FOR MURDER AND BELIEVES THE FORMULA OF AMERICAN SUCROSE COMPANY INVOLVED. JOSE SANTOS RODRIGUEZ STATED HE MET KAPLAN THROUGH VIDAL, SR., IN MAY, ONE NINE SIX ONE. SIGNED CONTRACT LICENSING KAPLAN TO USE PROCESS RELATING TO MOLASSES AND CONTRACT WAS TO BE ASSIGNED TO AMERICAN SUCROSE COMPANY. KAPLAN PAID HIM ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS MONTHLY WITH CHECKS ON SOUTHWESTERN SUGAR AND MOLASSES COMPANY ACCOUNT UNTIL PAST TWO MONTHS WHEN PERSONAL CHECKS USED BY KAPLAN. SANTOS TOLD OF DIFFICULTY IN COLLECTING FOR PAST TWO MONTHS AND COULD NOT OBTAIN

NOTE ON YELLOW: We are handling all reasonable leads [redacted] b3
[redacted] since captioned American citizen found murdered in Mexico b7E
City on 11-22-61. Cable sent via leased line at no cost to the Bureau.
Handled as [redacted] matter.

CABLE LEGAT MEXICO
RE: LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.

CHECK FOR NOVEMBER UNTIL NOVEMBER EIGHT. THEREAFTER CHECK BOUNCED AND HE SAW KAPLAN NOVEMBER TEN WHEN LATTER SAID HE WAS TOO BUSY TO DISCUSS IT. CHECK LATER CLEARED NOVEMBER FOURTEEN LAST. MRS. VIDAL TOLD SANTOS ABOUT NOVEMBER SIXTEEN LAST KAPLAN WAS IN NEW YORK. SANTOS SAW KAPLAN NOVEMBER SEVENTEEN LAST AND WAS INFORMED MONEY PROBLEMS RESOLVED AND THERE WOULD BE PLENTY OF CAPITAL IN TWO WEEKS. AT SAME TIME SANTOS SAW TICKETS FOR TRAVEL NEW YORK TO PERU AND RETURN DATED NOVEMBER SEVENTEEN LAST ON DESK IN OFFICE. HE SAID MRS. VIDAL STATED ON ABOUT NOVEMBER TWENTY FOUR THAT KAPLAN CALLED VICTIM FROM TEXAS ON NOVEMBER TEN TO ADVISE OF NECESSITY OF PERU TRIP MENTIONED BY OTHERS INTERVIEWED. SANTOS STATED HE KNEW OF NO REASON FOR MURDER. HE SAID VICTIM WAS IN BELLEVUE HOSPITAL ABOUT ONE YEAR AGO AS RESULT OF BEATING ACCORDING TO WIDOW. [redacted] b7D

[redacted]

[redacted] NEW YORK

POLICE FILES SHOW JOEL D. KAPLAN, ONE ONE ZERO ZERO MADISON AVENUE, ARRESTED DECEMBER, ONE NINE FIVE SEVEN FOR POSSESSION OF FIREARMS. ARREST LISTED FOR SAME DATE FOR DISORDERLY CONDUCT. ONE ZERO ZERO

CABLE LEGAT MEXICO
RE: LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.

DOLLARS FINE LEVIED ON FIRST CHARGE AND SUSPENDED SENTENCE ON SECOND IN MARCH, ONE NINE FIVE EIGHT. BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES RECORDS AT NEW YORK CITY DO NOT REFLECT EITHER VICTIM OR KAPLAN AS HOLDER OF DRIVER'S LICENSE MENTIONED URCAB NOVEMBER TWENTY EIGHT LAST. BUREAU HAS NOT RECEIVED SUMMARY OF PERTINENT DETAILS REGARDING CRIME AND MEXICAN INVESTIGATION REQUESTED IN BUCAB NOVEMBER TWENTY NINE LAST AND NEEDED FOR GUIDANCE OF INTERESTED OFFICES IN HANDLING LEADS AND PLANNING ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION. EXPEDITE.

NR. 937
ENC. ~~mp~~
CK. ~~UHL~~
APPROVED BY
TYPED BY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DEC 2 1961

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

WCS/

URGENT 12-2-61 4-20 PM MAT

TO DIRECTOR, FBI /8/

ATTENTION - LIAISON SECTION

FROM SAC, NEW YORK [redacted] P

b3
b7E

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] RE NY TEL, NOVEMBER THIRTY, SIXTY ONE, ALBANY TEL, NOVEMBER THIRTY, SIXTY ONE, AND BUTEL TO NEW YORK DECEMBER ONE, SIXTY ONE. JOSE SANTOS RODRIGUEZ INTERVIEWED DECEMBER ONE, SIXTY ONE, BY SPECIAL AGENTS DENNIS F. CREEDON AND THOMAS J. DOWLING WITH SA MAURICE LAUZIERE ACTING AS SPANISH TRANSLATOR. SANTOS MET JOEL D. KAPLAN THROUGH VIDAL, SR., IN MAY, SIXTY ONE. HE SIGNED CONTRACT AS LICENSOR FOR PROCESS RELATING TO MOLASSES WITH KAPLAN AS LICENSEE ON MARCH ONE, SIXTY ONE. CONTRACT TO BE ASSIGNED TO AMERICAN SUCROSE COMPANY, TWO TWO NINE FULTON STREET, NEW YORK CITY, IN WHICH COMPANY KAPLAN WOULD OWN SEVENTY PER CENT, VIDAL, JR., TEN PER CENT AND HE TWENTY PER CENT OF CAPITAL STOCK. HE WAS TO BE PAID MINIMUM OF FIFTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS MONTHLY AS ROYALTY. PRIOR TO [redacted] SIGNING OF CONTRACT KAPLAN ADVANCED HIM APPROXIMATELY FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ON DATE CONTACT SIGNED HE WAS GIVEN THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS. HE WAS PAID THIS MONEY BY CHECKS DRAWN ON THE ACCOUNT OF

REC-34

DEC 6 1961

END PAGE ONE

Cable Sent Mexico
JJF 12-4-61

THE SOUTHWESTERN SUGAR AND MOLLASSES COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY, AT EITHER CHASE MANHATTAN BANK OR FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK. SINCE SIGNING CONTRACT HE WAS RECEIVED ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS A MONTH FROM KAPLAN ALLOWING OR FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS A MONTH TO BE WRITTEN OFF AGAINST THE TOTAL OF SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS HE RECEIVED. ALL CHECKS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE FOR THE PAST TWO MONTHS HAVE BEEN DRAWN AGAINST SOUTHWESTERN SUGAR AND MOLLASSES COMPANY ACCOUNT. THE CHECKS FOR THE LAST TWO MONTHS HAVE BEEN DRAWN AGAINST KAPLAN- S PERSONAL ACCOUNT AT COMMERCIAL BANK OF NORTH AMERICA. SANTOS COULD OFFER NO EXPLANATION AS TO WHY KAPLAN DISCONTINUED PAYING HIM BY CHECK DRAWN ON ACCOUNT OF SOUTHWESTERN SUGAR AND MOLASSES COMPANY. HE HAS HAD DIFFICULTY IN GETTING HIS MONEY OVER PAST TWO MONTHS FROM KAPLAN. PRIOR TO NOVEMBER ONE, SIXTY ONE, KAPLAN AND VIDAL, JR., TOLD HIM THEY WERE GOING TO MEXICO CITY IN CONNECTION WITH HIS FORMULA AND HE THEREFORE ABOUT NOVEMBER ONE, SIXTY ONE, ATTEMPTED TO GET HIS MONTHLY PAYMENT FROM KAPLAN BUT HE WAS PUT OFF AND DID NOT OBTAIN A CHECK FROM KAPLAN UNTIL NOVEMBER EIGHTH, SIXTY ONE. THIS CHECK BOUNCED AND HE SAW KAPLAN ON AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER TEN, SIXTY ONE, PRIOR TO THREE PM WHEN KAPLAN TOLD HIM THAT HE WAS TOO BUSY TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT IT. THIS CHECK CASHED ON NOVEMBER FOURTEEN, SIXTY ONE. KAPLAN ON NOVEMBER TEN, SIXTY ONE, INDICATED THAT VIDAL, JR., AND HE STILL INTENDED TO GO TO MEXICO CITY. ABOUT NOVEMBER SIXTEEN, SIXTY ONE, TERESA

VIDAL , WIFE OF VIDAL, JR., TOLD SANTOS TELEPHONICALLY THAT KAPLAN WAS IN NEW YORK. SANTOS WENT TO KAPLAN- S OFFICE ON NOVEMBER SEVENTEEN, SIXTY ONE, WHERE NATHAN ABOLAFIA, KAPLAN- S SECRETARY, TOLD HIM KAPLAN WAS EXPECTING TO REALIZE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM BUSINESS TRANSACTION IN PERU. SANTOS OBSERVED TICKETS FOR TRAVEL NEW YORK TO PERU AND PERU TO NEW YORK DATED NOVEMBER SEVENTEEN SIXTY ONE, ON DESK IN KAPLAN-S OFFICE. HE DID NOT NOTE CARRIER. HE SAW KAPLAN IN HIS OFFICE ON NOVEMBER SEVENTEEN SIXTY ONE, AND WAS TOLD THAT THE MONEY PROBLEMS HAD BEEN RESOLVED AND THAT THERE WOULD BE PLENTY OF CAPITAL IN TWO WEEKS. SANTOS TOLD BY MRS. VIDAL, JR., ON ABOUT NOVEMBER TWENTY FOUR, SIXTY ONE, THAT KAPLAN HAD CALLED HER HUSBAND FROM TEXAS ON NOVEMBER TEN, SIXTY ONE , AND TOLD HIM HE HAD TO GO TO PERU BEFORE PROCEEDING TO MEXICO CITY BUT THAT HER HUSBAND WENT ON TO MEXICO CITY ANYWAY STATING HE COULD ENJOY HIMSELF DOWN THERE WHILE WAITING. SANTOS ADVISED HE KNEW OF NO REASON WHY VIDAL, JR., WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED. HE MENTIONED THAT ON NOVEMBER TWENTY FIVE, SIXTY ONE, MRS. VIDAL, JR., TOLD HIM THAT VIDAL, JR., HAD BEEN IN BELLEVUE HOSPITAL A YEAR TO A YEAR AND A HALF AGO BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN BEATEN. b7D

END PAGE THRE

PAGE FOUR

b7D

RECORDS BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, INDICATE JOEL D. KAPLAN, ONE ONE ZERO ZERO MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY, ARESTED DECEMBER THIRTY ONE, FIFTY SEVEN, FOR VIOLATION OF SECTION ONE EIGHT NINE SEVEN NEW YORK STATE PENAL LAW PAREN POSSESSION OF FIREARM CLOSE PAREN. HE ALSO WAS ARRESTED THAT DATE FOR DISORDERLY CONDUCT. ON MARCH NINETEEN, FIFTY EIGHT, HE WAS FINED ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ON FIRST CHARGE AND GIVEN SUSPENDED SENTENCE ON SECOND CHARGE. RECORDS BUREAU OF MOTOR VECHILES, NEW YORK CITY, DO NOT REFLECT THAT EITHER SUBJECT OR JOEL D. KAPLAN WAS ISSUED NEW YORK DRIVER-S LICENSE NUMBER ONE TWO TWO ZERO FOUR TWO THREE. INVESTIGATION AT NEW YORK CONTINUING.

~~CORR PAGE FOUR LINE FOUR~~ SHOULD END THIR~~TY ONE FIFT~~Y

37$

ENDSSS

NY R 8 WARAM

Foarde advised
10:10 PM 12/2/61
TWA

Cc-Mr. Foarde

443 (Rev. 6-2-61)

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

DECODED COPY

☐ **Airgram** ☒ **Cablegram**

URGENT 12-6-61

TO DIRECTOR

FROM LEGAT MEXICO CITY NO. 844

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] REBUCAB DECEMBER 4 LAST. FOLLOWING SUMMARY [redacted] TO DATE [redacted] VICTIM ARRIVED MEXICO CITY FROM NEW YORK NOVEMBER 11 LAST EAL FLIGHT 301. HE DISAPPEARED FROM HOTEL CONTINENTAL HILTON EVENING SAME DAY, AND NOVEMBER 18 HIS BLOODSTAINED CLOTHING LOCATED NEAR HIGHWAY OUTSIDE MEXICO CITY AND NOVEMBER 22 HIS PARTIALLY BURIED BODY WITH FOUR BULLET WOUNDS [redacted] WAS LOCATED SAME GENERAL AREA.

b3
b6
b7C
b7D
b7E

[redacted]

b3
b7E

EX-115

REC-46

8 DEC 8 1961

58 DEC 12 1961

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

4-2 (Rev. 6-2-61)

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

DECODED COPY

☐ **Airgram** ☒ **Cablegram**

PAGE THREE FROM LEGAT MEXICO CITY NO. 844

b7D

[redacted]

[redacted] WILL ADVISE. REQUEST SAN ANTONIO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION WITH AIRLINES, TOURIST DEPARTMENT, AND OTHER LOGICAL SOURCES TO ASCERTAIN TRUE IDENTITIES OF PETRUSHANSKY AND SCOTT.

JOHN F. DESMOND

RECEIVED: 2:33 PM MEL

cc- Mr Fowler

3RD CC--MR. L'ALLIER

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

1-Orig
1-Yellow
1-Liaison
PLAIN TEXT

12-7-61

1-Mr. Foarde

TELETYPE URGENT

b3
b7E

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DEC 7 1961
TELETYPE

TO SACS NEW YORK [redacted]
SAN ANTONIO
WASHINGTON FIELD [redacted] (BY SPECIAL MESSENGER)

EX-115
REC- 46

FROM DIRECTOR FBI [redacted]

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] FOR INFORMATION OF SAN ANTONIO, CAPTIONED AMERICAN CITIZEN FOUND SHOT TO DEATH NEAR MEXICO CITY NOVEMBER TWENTY TWO LAST. RE NEW YORK TEL DECEMBER FIVE LAST AND BUREAU PHONE CALL TO NEW YORK SAME DATE. AFFIRMING BUREAU INSTRUCTIONS, JOEL KAPLAN SHOULD NOT BE INTERVIEWED WITHOUT BUREAU AUTHORITY. [redacted]

SAME INFO FURNISHED LEGAT, MEXICO TODAY. INSTRUCTIONS NOT INTENDED TO LIMIT ANY OTHER INVESTIGATION DEEMED LOGICAL. NEW YORK EXPEDITE EFFORTS TO CONFIRM PRESENT LOCATION OF KAPLAN AND SUTEL. FOLLOWING SUMMARY RECEIVED FROM LEGAT, MEXICO: VICTIM ARRIVED MEXICO CITY FROM NEW YORK NOVEMBER ELEVEN LAST EAL FLIGHT THREE ZERO ONE. HE DISAPPEARED FROM HOTEL CONTINENTAL HILTON EVENING SAME DAY AND NOVEMBER EIGHTEEN HIS BLOODSTAINED CLOTHING LOCATED NEAR HIGHWAY OUTSIDE MEXICO CITY AND NOVEMBER TWENTY TWO HIS PARTIALLY BURIED

JF:jad (6)

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

2 - WFO

NOTE ON YELLOW: We are handling all reasonable leads [redacted] since captioned American found murdered in Mexico City, 11-22-61. Handled as [redacted] matter.

58 DEC 12 1961

MAIL ROOM [ ] TELETYPE UNIT [ ]

TELETYPE SACS NEW YORK
SAN ANTONIO
WASHINGTON FIELD
RE: LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.

BODY WITH FOUR BULLET WOUNDS [redacted] LOCATED SAME GENERAL AREA.

b6
b7C
b7D

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DEC 7 1961
TELETYPE

6 5/8

TELETYPE SACS NEW YORK
SAN ANTONIO
WASHINGTON FIELD
RE: LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.

b7D

NEW YORK ADVISE WHETHER JOSE SANTOS RODRIGUEZ CORRECTLY QUOTED THAT HE SAW KAPLAN ON AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER TEN LAST IN NEW YORK CITY. ALSO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION AT SEVEN FIVE STREET ADDRESS TO IDENTIFY PETRUSHANSKY. WFO CHECK PASSPORT FILES

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DEC 7 1961
TELETYPE

5 5/8

TELETYPE TO SACS NEW YORK
SAN ANTONIO
WASHINGTON FIELD
RE: LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.

FOR ANY BACKGROUND DATA AND PHOTOGRAPHS ON SCOTT AND PETRUSHANSKY. SAN ANTONIO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION WITH AIRLINES, TOURIST DEPARTMENT AND OTHER LOGICAL SOURCES TO ASCERTAIN TRUE IDENTITIES OF SCOTT AND PETRUSHANSKY. ALL OFFICES SUTEL PERTINENT RESULTS, ATTENTION LIAISON SECTION. [redacted] b7E

PHOTOGRAPHS OF SUSPECTS WILL BE FORWARDED TO NEW YORK AND SAN ANTONIO AS SOON AS AVAILABLE. WFO ADVISED SEPARATELY.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DEC 7 1961
TELETYPE

4-3 (Rev. 6-2-61)

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

DECODED COPY

☐ **Airgram** ☒ **Cablegram**

URGENT 12-5-61

TO DIRECTOR

FROM LEGAT, MEXICO CITY NO. 842

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted]

b3
b6
b7C
b7D
b7E

[redacted]

REC- 46

Teletype NY, JOHN F. DESMOND

DEC 8 1961

RECEIVED: 6:15 PM

JJF

3RD CC-MR. L'ALLIER

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: December 5, 1961

FROM : Mr. A. J. Decker

SUBJECT: LUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.

[redacted]

b3
b7E

NYtel 12/5/61 stated UACB, New York, contemplates interview of Bernice Kaplan and following this interview New York contemplates an interview of Joel Kaplan.

Following discussion of this matter with Special Agent Foarde, I telephonically contacted New York and instructed Night Supervisor, Maurice Kelleher that Joel Kaplan is not to be interviewed without prior Bureau authority.

ACTION:

For information of Liaison Section.

AJD/edm
(5)

1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. L'Allier
1 - Mr. Foarde
1 - Mr. Decker

EX 100

REC- 36 [redacted]

DEC 8 1961

57 DEC 13 1961

1-Original
1-Yellow
1-Liaison
1-Foarde

12-7-61

RA

CODE

CABLEGRAM

EX 100

URGENT

TO LEGAL ATTACHE MEXICO CITY

REC- 36

FROM DIRECTOR FBI [redacted] b3 b7E

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR. [redacted] REBUCAB DECEMBER FOUR LAST AND URCABS DECEMBER FIVE AND SIX LAST. JOEL KAPLAN BANK ACCOUNT SHOWS CHECKS FOR FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS PAYABLE TO CASH CASHED NOVEMBER EIGHT LAST. EASTERN AIRLINES RECORDS SHOW KAPLAN DEPARTED NEW YORK NOVEMBER EIGHT LAST FOR SAN ANTONIO ON FLIGHT FIVE ZERO SEVEN F ON ONE WAY TICKET. KAPLAN OBSERVED IN NEW YORK CITY NOVEMBER SEVENTEEN LAST AND PAN AMERICAN AIRLINES RECORDS SHOW HE DEPARTED NOVEMBER EIGHTEEN LAST FOR LIMA, PERU, ON PANAGRA FLIGHT EIGHT ONE. DINER'S CLUB CHARGES TO KAPLAN ACCOUNT FOR NOVEMBER NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL DECEMBER FIFTEEN NEXT. HE CURRENTLY RESIDES TWO ONE FIVE EAST SEVEN NINE STREET NEW YORK CITY. NEW YORK INSTRUCTED TO EXPEDITE ATTEMPTS TO CONFIRM PRESENT LOCATION OF KAPLAN. [redacted] b6 b7C b7E

[redacted] ONE NINE FIVE EIGHT PHOTOS OF KAPLAN FORWARDED TODAY BY POUCH. ATTENTION

VIA CABLEGRAM

DEC 7 1961

JMF:nph (5)

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (detached)

NOTE: We are handling all reasonable leads [redacted] since captioned American found murdered in Mexico City 11-22-61. [redacted]

SEE NOTE PAGE 2

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

57 DEC 13 1961

CABLE TO LEGAT, MEXICO CITY
RE: LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR. [redacted]

b3
b7E

REFERRED TO NUMEROUS POTENTIAL LEGAL COMPLICATIONS THIS MATTER IF KAPLAN CHARGED WITH MURDER, AND ARREST AND EXTRADITION SOUGHT BY MEXICO.

NOTE:

[redacted] Cable sent over leased line at no cost to Bureau. Handled as [redacted] matter.

No. 938
FBI pll
Mar
COL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DEC 5 1961
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

URGENT 12-5-61 5-13 PM JLW

TO DIRECTOR /7/ ATTENTION LIAISON SECTION

FROM SAC NEW YORK [redacted] 2P

b3
b7E

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] REBUTEL DECEMBER TWO, SIXTYONE, AND BUTEL DECEMBER ONE, SIXTYONE. BANK ACCOUNT FOR JOEL KAPLAN LOCATED. HE CASHED TWO CHECKS, ONE FOR FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND THE OTHER FOR ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS, PAYABLE TO CASH, ON NOV. EIGHT SIXTYONE. ACCORDING TO RECORDS EASTERN AIRLINES /EAL/, KAPLAN DEPARTED NEW YORK ON NOVEMBER EIGHT, SIXTYONE, ENROUTE SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, VIA EAL FLIGHT FIVE ZERO SEVEN F, UTILIZING A ONE-WAY TICKET PURCHASED NOV SEVEN, SIXTYONE, AT GRAND CENTRAL AIRLINES TERMINAL. KAPLAN OBSERVED IN NYC ON NOV. SEVENTEEN SIXTYONE. KAPLAN DEPARTED NY ACCORDING TO RECORDS OF PAN-AMERICAN AIRLINES ON NOV. EIGHTEEN, SIXTYONE, ENROUTE LIMA, PERU, VIA PANAGRA FLIGHT EIGHT-ONE. HE HAD OPEN RETURN TICKET. RESERVATIONS MADE FOR LIMA FLIGHT THROUGH SUTHERLAND TRAVEL AGENCY ON NOV. SIXTEEN, SIXTYONE, BY MRS. HUFFMAN,

OF SOUTHWESTERN SUGAR AND MOLASSES COMPANY. KAPLAN MEMBER OF DINER-S CLUB, NY, BUT CHARGES TO HIS ACCOUNT FOR NOVEMBER WILL

REC-36 [redacted]

END PAGE ONE

Cable to Mexico 12-7-61 JJ Finch

Forward 12-5-61

5

NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL AFTER DECEMBER FIFTEEN, NINETEEN SIXTYONE. KAPLAN CURRENTLY RESIDES AT TWO ONE FIVE EAST SEVENTY NINTH STREET, NYC. NYO, UACB, CONTEMPLATES INTERVIEW OF BERNICE KAPLAN, AKA BONNIE SHARI, FORMER WIFE OF JOEL KAPLAN, WHO IS NOW BELIEVED TO RESIDE AT [redacted] FOLLOWING THIS INTERVIEW, THE NYO CONTEMPLATES AN INTERVIEW OF JOEL KAPLAN. IN CONDUCTING THIS INTERVIEW, CARE WILL BE EXERCISED TO INDICATE THAT HE IS BEING INTERVIEWED AS HE WAS A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF THE SUBJ FOR ANY DETAILS HE MIGHT HAVE WHICH MIGHT SHED LIGHT ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING SUBJECT-S DEATH. IT IS FELT THAT AN INTERVIEW OF KAPLAN WILL ESTABLISH HIS MOVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES AS THEY MAY RELATE TO SUBJECT-S DEATH. [redacted]

b6
b7C

b7E

[redacted]

END

NY R7 WA NM

1-original
1-yellow
1-Mr. DeLoach
1-Mr. Foarde
1-Liaison

CODE

DECEMBER 8, 1961

CABLEGRAM

URGENT

TO LEGAL ATTACHE, MEXICO CITY

FROM DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted]

b3
b7D
b7E

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted]

[redacted] NEW YORK ATTEMPTING TO CONFIRM KAPLAN'S PRESENT NEW YORK CITY LOCATION. BUREAU DETERMINED TREATY PROVIDES FORMAL REQUEST TO STATE DEPARTMENT NECESSARY BEFORE STATE CAN REQUEST JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO AUTHORIZE WARRANT PERMITTING KAPLAN ARREST BY BUREAU. [redacted]

SUCAB REPLY.

JJF:mls (6)

1-Foreign Liaison Unit (detached) — detached

Note: Captioned American found murdered near Mexico City 11/22/61. Prime suspect is Joel Kaplan, business associate, and we have handled leads [redacted] and are attempting to determine Kaplan's present location.

Cable being sent by leased line at no cost to Bureau [redacted]

Tolson
Parsons
Mohr
Belmont
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Tavel
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

VIA CABLEGRAM
DEC 8 - 1961
10:25A JDS

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☑

EX-100

REC-30

DEC 8 1961

51 DEC 12 1961

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
5010-104

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 12/5/61

FROM : SAC, ALBANY [redacted] RUC

b3
b7E

SUBJECT: LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.
[redacted]

Re Albany letter to Bureau dated 11/29/61, and Albany teletype to Bureau and New York dated 11/30/61.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are six copies of a letterhead memorandum suitable for dissemination, in regard to captioned subject.

Investigation conducted at Utica, New York, as reflected in enclosed letterhead memorandum was conducted by SA's RAYMOND A. CONNOLLY and J. LEWIS KELLY.

CC: 2 - Bureau (Encls.6)
1 - Albany

RJL/bsp
(3)

ENCLOSURE

EXPEDITE

AGENCY Mexico - 1 ect 3 encls
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW. 12/7/61
HOW FORW. 5-15
BY

[redacted]

REC-46

EX-108

10 DEC 1961

66 DEC 13 1961

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Albany, New York

December 5, 1961

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.

On November 28, 1961, Joseph Valeriano, Municipal Bond Trader and Registered Representative of the Eastman Dillon Union Securities, 15 Broad Street, New York City, furnished the following information concerning Vidal when interviewed while vacationing with his parents at [redacted] b6 b7C

Vidal was first met at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, during approximately 1948, and there was some personal association between the two until Vidal left approximately one year later. The next personal contact occurred when they met in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, accidentally, during 1956, at which time Vidal was then President of the Paint Corporation of America and Valeriano was with another New York City brokerage office. Since 1956, business and social contacts with Vidal continued until approximately one week prior to the latter's departure to Mexico City, around November 18, 1961, and a rather close bond of friendship occurred during the past six months.

From 1956 to the Summer of 1961, Vidal, who had also been President of the Shields Corporation of America, had engaged in various sorts of promotional work, dealing with a wide variety of business activities. On an unrecalled date during the summer of 1961, Valeriano visited the Vidal residence, 777 Foster Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, and on that occasion met for the first and only time, Joe or Joel Kaplan, who was introduced by Vidal as President of the newly-formed American Sucrose Company, of which Vidal was Vice President, Treasurer and Director. It was Valeriano's understanding, from conversation on that and subsequent occasions, that Kaplan had approximately seventy-five per cent of the company's equity, that Vidal had ten to fifteen per cent and that another individual, whose name had been mentioned on the above occasion but presently not recalled, was in this company for another ten or fifteen per cent. Valeriano noted that the name Jose Santos sounds familiar but that he never met this individual and actually knows nothing regarding him.

[redacted] b3 b7E

ENC

The American Sucrose Company is known as a "paper company," the unknown value of which rested on a formula for the dehydration of molasses. Vidal had informed him that this formula had been made available by the subject's father, although the original source of it was not known and apparently Kaplan was contributing most of the operating expenses until the company's plans could be put into operation.

The subject's father was described as a past shareholder and present representative of a company phonetically known only as Pajeuski Pausat, with office at an address believed to be 229 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, New York.

During the existence of the American Sucrose Company, the titles or positions held by Kaplan and Vidal were not known to have changed by Valeriano, who stated he thought it odd that Kaplan would be President of the organization if the formula involved had come from Vidal's father, but reasoned further that perhaps this arrangement had been made based on Kaplan's early supply of capital to the company.

In conversations with Vidal, prior to his departure for Mexico City, it was learned that Vidal's sole purpose of the trip was to contact individuals, known only as the Sans (phonetic) family, who were involved in the sugar industry and also in real estate in Mexico City, to close a business deal that had previously been discussed with them by the American Sucrose Company. Vidal had stated that the Sans (phonetic) people were to contribute $250,000.00 and that the American Sucrose Company would contribute the formula, and that both of these assets would be represented by the formation of a new company, but the equity distributed between Sans (phonetic) and the American Sucrose Company as backers. Vidal had no other intended purpose for this trip, this was to have been his first trip to Mexico City and, therefore, it is most likely assumed that he immediately contacted the Sans (phonetic) family upon his arrival, despite newspaper publicity reflecting that he had not been in touch with them.

It was subsequently learned from Mrs. Vidal that Joseph Kaplan had originally planned to fly to Mexico City with Vidal but had cancelled his flight for other plans, which included travel to Peru. Mrs. Vidal also indicated she understood that at one point prior to his travel to Peru, Kaplan had been in San Antonio, Texas, but the reason for this was unknown to her.

Vidal's wife first informed Valeriano that the subject was missing in Mexico City immediately after she had received a telephonic inquiry concerning this matter from the

New York City newspapers and as an assistance gesture, he called the New York papers to verify that the first call had not been a hoax. He remained in contact with and tried to assist Mrs. Vidal during the period of time Vidal was missing, and at no time did she indicate any inside knowledge of or the exact reason for her husband's disappearance and ultimately discovered murder.

Concerning Vidal's association with American Sucrose Company, it was believed that the activities of this organization dominated his business time since its inception and that Kaplan, who is only known through a family reputation, was considered by Vidal as a trusted friend. Valeriano denied any knowledge concerning a meeting between Vidal and three persons who had previously been in Vidal's father's office and claimed that at no time was he with Vidal when any situation arising similar to this situation occurred. He pointed out that it must have been someone else in Vidal's company, if this actually happened, but he noted that close recent contacts with Vidal, which included weekly and biweekly contacts over the past six weeks, had disclosed that no mention of any such situation was ever made by Vidal. He could suggest no one other than Kaplan who could possibly have been with Vidal under such circumstances.

He was advised by both Mrs. Vidal and Vidal that they had received annoying and even threatening telephone calls from anonymous sources for approximately the past six months and although Mrs. Vidal felt that her husband's fate might have been related in some way to these calls, he personally felt that there was no connection between the two. Valeriano explained his opinion by stating the calls had been going on for such a period of time that had the caller intended violence, it undoubtedly would have occurred earlier.

He stated he could only speculate as to the reasons for Vidal's death and believes most likely that the reasons would revolve around the formula intended to be utilized by the American Sucrose Company. He noted the possibility existed that robbery might have been a motive for Vidal's death because, although Mrs. Vidal stated he was only carrying approximately $60.00 in cash plus company checks, Vidal's appearance and effervescent manner might indicate wealth to strangers in Mexico City. It was his contention, however, that more likely, as stated above, the company's formula would be involved and because most likely he would have had it in his possession in Mexico City, it was possibly the target for someone who knew or suspected that he would have.

Valeriano, who stated he is returning to his New York City business address on November 29, 1961, will be there if additional inquiries are necessary but has requested that his name and any information furnished by kept confidential, as much as possible, in view of the violence involved in this matter.

Records of the New York State Secretary of State, Albany, New York, checked on November 30, 1961, reflect the American Sucrose Company filed a Certificate of Incorporation with the Secretary of State on January 10, 1961. The purpose for which the corporation was organized was first, to engage in the manufacturing, processing and production of foodstuffs, biochemicals, allied nutrients made from sugars of all kinds, second, to engage in the research to develop new methods for obtaining or treating such foodstuffs and to coordinate and cooperate with others in obtaining the objects set forth in one and two, and to sell, assign, license and sublicense others in utilization of the results of the research of the corporation and products thereof, whether for import or export, fourth acquire real estate, sell, et cetera. Records further reflect that subscribers and directors of the corporation were Joe D. Kaplan, 215 East 79th Street, New York City; Louis M. Vidal, Jr., 465 West End Avenue, New York 24, New York; Joseph F. Padlon, [redacted] b6 b7C Attorney handling incorporation was Joseph F. Padlon, [redacted] If the complete Certificate of Incorporation is desired, it can be obtained from the Secretary of State.

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, Albany, New York, advises records regarding driver's licenses are not filed numerically, therefore, they would be unable to determine to whom New York driver's license number 1220423 is issued. A search of the records was negatively conducted regarding subject and Joel, also known as Joseph D. Kaplan. Records further indicate the above license number as having been issued as a chauffeur's license in 1959 and 1961, and also as an operator's license in 1958. All were issued out of the New York District Office.

~~This memorandum is [illegible] by the FBI and [illegible] to be [illegible] agency to which [illegible]~~

11-25-61

CODE

1 - Orig
1 - Yellow
1 - Liaison
1 - Donahoe
1 - Foarde

CABLEGRAM URGENT

TO LEGAL ATTACHE MEXICO CITY

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] REURCAB NOVEMBER TWENTY FOUR LAST AND BUCAB NOVEMBER TWENTY FIVE INSTANT. NEW YORK ADVISES NO ARREST RECORD FOUND FOR SUBJECT AND INFORMANT CONTACTS NEGATIVE. DETERMINED SOUTHWESTERN SUGAR AND MOLASSES COMPANY OPERATED BY JACK KAPLAN AND NEPHEW OF FOUNDER, POSSIBLY JOSEPH KAPLAN. OWNERS SAID TO BE WORTH MORE THAN FIFTEEN MILLION AND FIRM DEALS IN SUGAR AND MOLASSES IN CUBA, MEXICO, AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. HANDLES ABOUT SIXTY PER CENT OF MOLASSES BUSINESS IN MEXICO AND HAS TERMINALS IN HOUSTON, VERA CRUZ AND ELSEWHERE. IN JULY, ONE NINE SIX ZERO, INTERVIEW SUBJECT DESCRIBED SELF AS OWNER OF PAINT COMPANY OF AMERICA, NEW YORK CITY, AND TOLD OF TWENTY-HOUR VISIT TO HAVANA ON JUNE TWENTY SEVEN THAT YEAR WHERE HE CONFERRED WITH VERY CLOSE FRIEND JULIAN ZULUETA, LATER DESCRIBED AS CHAIRMAN OF CENTRAL CAJUANI AND VERY CLOSE TO FIDEL CASTRO AND ECONOMIC ADVISORS CUBAN GOVERNMENT. TRIP ARRANGED BY JOSE MARTINEZ, VICE PRESIDENT OF BANCO CONTINENTAL AND CONFIDANT OF ZULUETA, WHO MET SUBJECT AND

b3
b7E

1 - New York (By regular mail)

JJF:EAB (7)

[redacted]

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (detached

SEE NOTE ON YELLOW PAGE THREE

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

VIA CABLEGRAM
NOV 26 1961
12:15 pm

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

MCREC 46

EX-103

51 DEC 4 1961

CABLE LEGAT MEXICO

RE: LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR. [redacted] b3 b7E

AND TOOK HIM IMMEDIATELY TO ZULUETA. SUBJECT RELATED IMPRESSION THAT ZULUETA, ALTHOUGH CLOSE TO INNER CIRCLE, WAS NOT IN FULL SUPPORT OF CUBAN REGIME. HE TOLD OF PROPOSALS MADE TO HIM BY ZULUETA TO ASSIST AMERICAN BUSINESS INTERESTS IN CUBA IF THERE WOULD BE NO VIOLATION OF U.S. LAW. ZULUETA PROPOSED VIDAL UNDERTAKE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES: ONE - DETERMINE IF AMERICAN AND CANADIAN BANKS WITH CUBAN BRANCHES WOULD SELL THEIR INTERESTS AND HOLDINGS IN CUBA TO ZULUETA, TWO - SAME PROPOSALS FOR AMERICAN SUGAR COMPANIES, THREE - ASCERTAIN AVAILABILITY AMERICAN TECHNICIANS WILLING TO WORK IN CUBAN CONCERNS FINANCED BY CUBAN MONEY, FOUR - CONTACT INDIVIDUALS IN UNITED STATES HOLDING CUBAN PESOS AND WILLING TO CONVERT INTO NEW ISSUES OF CUBAN PESOS. VIDAL STATED ZULUETA WILLING TO ASSUME PURCHASE OF AMERICAN INTERESTS IN CUBA WITH UNDERSTANDING THESE HOLDINGS WOULD REVERT TO ORIGINAL OWNERS AFTER OVERTHROW OF CASTRO REGIME. VIDAL FULLY COGNIZANT OF RESPONSIBILITY TO REGISTER AS FOREIGN AGENT IF HE ACCEPTED

CABLE LEGAT MEXICO

RE: LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR. [redacted] b3 b7E

ZULUETA'S DEAL AND DESIRED TO FURNISH ABOVE INFORMATION SO BUREAU WOULD BE APPRISED OF HIS ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH ZULUETA. INVESTIGATION CONTINUING AT NEW YORK CITY.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Legat, [redacted] requested background data and investigation in New York City regarding subject, whose body was found near Mexico City 11-22-61 after mysterious disappearance 11-13-61 under circumstances indicating foul play. Sent via leased line at no cost to the Bureau and handled as [redacted] matter.

130

1 - Liaison Section
1 - Mr. Donohoe
1 - Mr. Foarde
November 25, 1961

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE URGENT

TO SAC NEW YORK

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR., [redacted] REURTEL NOVEMBER TWENTY FOUR LAST. LEGAT, MEXICO CITY, ADVISES SUBJECT SHOT SEVERAL TIMES. WIFE [redacted] FURNISHED LITTLE INFORMATION STATING VIDAL, SR., TOLD HER TO REFER ALL INQUIRIES TO HIM. SHE SAID SUBJECT BEATEN THREE WEEKS AGO BY SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS AND ONE ATTACKER ARRESTED AS RESULT. BEATING WITNESSED BY SUBJECT'S FRIENDS JOE VALERIANA, [redacted] AND ONE PAT, LNU. SHE ALSO IDENTIFIEDRAUL AND ANGELINA CARRASQUILLO, [redacted] AS FAMILY FRIENDS WHO MAY HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT'S ACTIVITIES. INTERVIEW VALERIANA AND PAT, LNU TO IDENTIFY PERSONS INVOLVED IN BEATING. ALSO INTERVIEW CARRASQUILLO AND VIDAL, SR., CONCERNING FOREGOING AND RELATION OF FAMILY WITH JOSEPH D. KAPLAN OF LIMA, PERU, WHO REPORTEDLY PHONED FAMILY IN NEW YORK AFTER SUBJECT'S DISAPPEARANCE. MEXICAN AUTHORITIES BELIEVE CASE HAS INTERNATIONAL RAMIFICATIONS INVOLVING CUBAN AND/OR DOMINICAN CONNECTIONS [redacted]

b3
b6
b7C
b7D
b7E

b3
b7D
b7E

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

JJF:sac (5) REC- 55

[redacted]

19 NOV 26

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 26 1961
TELETYPE

MAIL ROOM [ ] TELETYPE UNIT [✓]

51 DEC 4 1961

TELETYPE TO NEW YORK

RE: LOUIS MELCHIOR VIDAL, JR.

[redacted] HANDLE b7D

EXPEDITIOUSLY AND SUTEL RESULTS ATTENTION LIAISON SECTION.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

New York Investigation requested [redacted] b3
[redacted] after body of b7E
subject, American citizen, found near Mexico City, 11-22-61. He disappeared under circumstances indicating foul play in Mexico on 11-13-61. Handled as [redacted] [redacted] matter.

11 22 AM
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 26 1961
TELETYPE